

Tribute
With Our Love

To
Stephen Allan Larsen

A beloved father, grandfather, husband,
brother, uncle, mentor, example,
scouter, friend, and
disciple



Picture compliments of Dr. Randy L. Sorensen drsorensen@cableone.net

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Stephen R. Larsen

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Introduction

On Thursday, January 23, 2009, Stephen A. Larsen came home from work early because he was not feeling well. By Sunday he and his wife Sue could tell something serious was wrong and they went to the hospital. As news spread of Steve's ill-health on Monday and his diagnosis of acute leukemia on Tuesday, the outpouring of love and support from the community was overwhelming. Countless people dropped by, called or wrote emails expressing their respect and appreciation for Steve's exemplary life of service. This book is a compilation of the messages received and a tribute to the life of a great man.

Obituary

February 2, 2009 - Idaho State Journal

Stephen Allan Larsen, 65

BLACKFOOT — Stephen Allan Larsen, 65, of Blackfoot, Idaho, passed away from acute leukemia Jan. 30, 2009, at his home surrounded by his family.

Steve was born December 8, 1943, to Barbara Grace Elswood Larsen and Allan Franklin Larsen in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He graduated from Snake River High School in 1962 and went on to serve in the LDS Central British Mission. After attending Ricks College, he continued his education at Brigham Young University, ultimately receiving his MBA.

While attending Ricks College, Steve met and married Susan Richards on March 4, 1966, in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple. Their union was blessed with 11 children.

Steve was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served faithfully in numerous callings, including Bishop, Counselor in the Boise Idaho Mission, and Stake Presidency counselor. He most recently enjoyed teaching the Gospel Doctrine Class.

Steve was involved in many community activities and cherished the friendships from these involvements. He especially enjoyed playing the trumpet in the Snake River Community Orchestra.

Steve farmed with his father for ten years and worked in the financial planning and insurance industry. He started working for the Boy Scouts of America professionally in 1993 in the newly formed Grand Teton Council.

This career brought him a great deal of satisfaction and many lasting friendships. His influence for good was felt throughout the Council.

Steve's hobbies included reading, leather working, and bicycling, but his chief enjoyment in life came from his role as a husband, father, and grandfather. His example and dedication to his priesthood responsibilities will have a lasting impact on future generations.

Steve is survived by his wife of 42 years, Susan; his children, Stephani (Lindsay) Bennion, of Hyde Park, Utah, Shauntel (Randall) Anderson, of Smithfield, Utah, Stephen (Bonnie) Larsen of Wellsville, Utah, David (Andrea) Larsen, of Boise, Idaho, Rebecca (Chet) Seely, of

Chandler, Arizona, John (Laurel) Larsen, of Canton, Michigan, Michael (Marci) Larsen, of Burley, Idaho, Paul (Jenny) Larsen, of Midland, Michigan, Timothy Larsen, of Boise, Idaho, SaraKay Larsen, of Rexburg, Idaho; a foster daughter, Jonie Johnson-Harper, of Cass Lake,

Minnesota; his siblings, Gary (Linda) Larsen, of Blackfoot, Idaho, Stafford Larsen, of Kaysville, Utah, Jeannie (Scott) Gentry, of Show Low, Arizona, Mark (Rita) Larsen, of Thornton, Colorado, Rick (Terry) Larsen, of Pocatello, Idaho, Karen (Jim) Van Fleet, of Layton, Utah; and 35 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009, at 11 a.m. in the Blackfoot Northwest Stake Center, 95 North 740 West, with Bishop Troy Goodwin conducting. Family will meet with friends and relatives on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2009, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Hawker Funeral Home, 132 South Shilling Avenue, Blackfoot, and from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the church prior to services. In lieu of flowers, the family requests a contribution to the LDS Perpetual Education Fund or Boy Scouts of America. Remembrances of Steve may be sent to the family at larsens@gmail.com.

Notes from Friends

Dear Steve and the Larsen Family,

It is no secret of the desire of Steve Larsen's heart: to serve as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has worked and sacrificed to put himself in a financial position for it to happen. With the world facing a recession and losing 40% of its wealth over the last few months, I have often wondered how much longer Steve would need to work to see his dream a reality.

Through the tender mercies of our Heavenly Father, last Tuesday evening Steve received his mission call and we know where he will be serving. The call came much sooner than expected, but as is his nature, he embraces the challenge with characteristic optimism. He is well prepared and will represent us well. He has the good fortune to leave quickly and not have to linger around waiting interminable amounts of time like some mission calls.

Obviously, it will be with significant regret that he will have a different companion than his beloved Sue. But Sue is a woman who allows Jesus Christ to be at the helm of her life. She loves the Lord and bears testimony of Him--using words when necessary. She is strong and immovable in her faith and will not give up during difficult and discouraging times. She is a woman of courage and character. She has sent out missionaries before and knows that there is always rejoicing and reunion.

Only our Heavenly Father knows of his assignment, but I wouldn't be surprised that it will include some brass rehearsals herald the triumphal entry of the Second Coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. He needs His best trumpeters to announce Him. Not just good musicians, but those who can bear testimony of Him through puckering into a mouthpiece.

So Steve, please feel at peace that those of us left behind will do our best to pick up the slack and stand as witnesses of Jesus Christ in all things and in all places the way you showed us how to do it. And although we won't be able to email a weakly (spelled correctly) letter, you will be able to check in on us at the appropriate times to see that you left us better than you found us.

Clearly the Lord loves Steve Larsen very much and it is our good fortune to love him too.

Jill Kirkham

Steve The Great

Dearest Steve,

As we wait and pray for a miracle, please allow me to express my love to you by expressing a few reasons for asking the Lord to preserve your life.

Cedar Badge will never be the same without you. We cannot do it without you.

The impact you have had is earth shattering. I will remember the times when I lost my patience or was upset. You always calmed me down and brought me back to what really mattered--the youth.

When you went out on a limb last year and allowed us to discount the price, I know you took a lot of flack. You did it with a smile on your face and love in your heart. Your dependability is legend. You always come through early. You never seek glory or recognition. You always have a smile or a tear, as the moment requires.

I will long remember when we met at that Subway in Idaho Falls after the campout last May. As Ron and Nita, Jill and I met with you to map out the future of Cedar Badge, I was amazed and impressed with your wisdom, insight and inspiration as you expressed your vision. It was for me like the old advertisement slogan, "when E.F. Hutton speaks, everybody listens." When Steve speaks, I listen.

My sons need you. You will never understand that impact that you have had on both of them. When we left the hospital Tuesday, Scott, who has never been emotional about much, including the deaths of beloved grandparents, was markedly shaken. When I called to tell him about your positive leukemia test, he broke down. What an impact you have had on that boy! And I wish that you could hear Aaron pray for you. He is pleading for you along with the rest of the Kirkham Klan.

Some of the greatest treasures I have in this life came from you. There is not a way to properly thank you for all you have given me. A gift that guides my life is the print you gave me of the uniformed scouts of all ages. It inspires me of who I should help, and hope I can follow in your shadow in a small way.

I remember when I was called to be in the stake presidency. I felt so unworthy and unqualified. I asked you what to do. You told me that I should quit worrying and just love the people. You also told me to seek the Lord's help, and that He would compensate what I was not. That visit with you has guided my service in the stake. Whenever I receive an assignment I filter of this question, "What or how would Steve do this?" You have been my example and mentor. You see, I don't really know the Savior as well as I probably should. When I ask the question, "What would Jesus do?" I'm not sure. It is hard for me to know what He is like in an interview, or around a campfire, or teaching a priesthood lesson for ward conference. But I have a clear vision, CRYSTAL clear image of what you Steve Larsen would do. You are the most Christ-like man I know. So, when I do the things I do, it is through your example.

I am basically a selfish person and I just flat out need you. I can never hope to be as good a man as you. That's why I am praying for a miracle, cause I have to have you. But if the Lord needs you more than me, I won't argue. But you need to know this: I have not given up and will continue to plead with the Lord for a miracle.

I LOVE YOU STEVE!

Kirk Kirkham

My Dear Friend Steve,

Greetings and Hallucinations

So, they tell me you are getting a new assignment and won't be able to serve with us this year at Cedar Badge. I will deeply miss you but thank you for sending Steve Bair to help us out. You know I am the envy of the Scoutmaster's at Cedar Badge this year.

No one can believe that I was able to snag the great Steve Larsen to be my Assistant Scoutmaster. They say I am so very lucky. They are right.

I am lucky to have been serenaded by your brass in the cool morning air of Treasure Mountain.

I am lucky to have planned and problem solved with you over a camp table.

I am lucky to have supped at your table and to have slept in your cabin.

I am lucky to have shopped at your store.

I am lucky to have had you sculpt my soul by your gentle means.

I am lucky that you have blessed the lives of my children.

Steve you are my go to man when it comes to scouting so I have two requests of you.

First – In your new assignment, if the powers to be will allow it, please visit us at Cedar Badge this year.

Second – When you get to your new camp please save a tent site for me. As usual I have much further to travel than you, and I will probably come in late. You always seem to get the best campsites.

Steve, you have always been my hero and you always will be.

Thank you.

I love you.

God's speed in your new adventures.

Randy Sorensen

P.S. In all the excitement I forgot to tell you that Lynda and I are expecting our fourth child. He or she will be here in mid June. Another blessing on our home!

Steve,

I am sorry to hear about your most recent challenge and hurdle. You must be in line for another mission.

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know what I learned from you.

I regret that we didn't work together more than we had but what time we did you left an impression.

What I remember, and need to learn from, is that you always had a smile and optimistic attitude especially in the face of adversity. Given some of the challenges at Jamboral and Cedar Badge you never faltered in your demeanor. I never heard a terse word or saw action that would suggest anything but a "can do" attitude. This will be how I will remember you.

Most importantly as I stated earlier, I need to learn from your example. I foresee that you could become Jack Lemmon in "Tuesdays with Morrie". You have touched many lives, most you don't even know that you did-they may come to your funeral and say many great things about you-what a shame that you did not hear those comments sooner.

Having said that though, I feel quite sure that you are quite content knowing that you have and you don't have to hear it. That is why you spent so much time in Scouting and made it a career, especially in Cedar Badge, you embody "It is better to build a boy than repair a man."

Thank you for being the man, the Scouter, the example you have been for me. I wish you well on your journey and may you be able to bring comfort to those closest to you for they will need to understand how you feel about them and the new adventure that God has planned for you.

I don't speak much of God, but with folks like you it certainly makes me think of Him. I know he has been a part of your life and that he has resided inside of you.

With a lump in my throat, I salute you!

Thank you for being you!

You will be missed.

Mike Doyle

In 1997, we took a family trip back to Nauvoo to visit the sites along the Mormon trail. It was a marvelous trip. I had signed up to go to Wood Badge that year upon our return. At Wood Badge, one of the staff who came to teach us was very talented on his trumpet.

The first time I heard him play at a flag raising, it sent chills up my spine. About mid-week, I was feeling a lot of stress as I turned in late at night. As I lay there on my cot, wondering about family at home and contemplating the day, I heard Steve Larsen again begin to play his trumpet. He was playing in the darkness down by the lake, as he did several evenings to serenade us to sleep....only this night the tune was very familiar:

Come, Come, Ye Saints; not toil nor labor fear, but with joy, wend your way.

As he so beautifully played that number echoing through the trees in the darkness, my mind went back to our trip to Nauvoo.

I thought of our visit to Haun's Mill, where the mobs killed 13. We stood at that gravesite and contemplated the faith of Sister Amanda Smith, who prayed that her son could be healed with a hip shot away. I thought of Liberty jail, where the prophet suffered in the winter of 1839, and received sections of the D & C. I remembered visiting Richmond and the graves of the Whitmers.

I remembered Nauvoo - the mansion house - where Joseph's mother had an upper room.

The store where in the upper room Joseph bore off all the keys of the kingdom. Carthage jail, where he was martyred. Brigham Young's house, wherein the east room plans were made to leave Nauvoo. Brigham declared that the planned exodus was part of the merciful design of our Heavenly Father towards all such as patiently endure these afflictions until he advises them that the day of their deliverance has come.

I remembered looking across the river from Parley Street and trying to imagine how hard it was to leave their homes and cross the ice in February. Then being at Winter Quarters and seeing the rows and rows of graves. Council Bluffs, where 500 men, 80 women and children started a march of 2000 miles in the Mormon battalion.

As we headed west, following the reenactment of the first saints to come west, we caught up to them in Nebraska. Then it was on to Martin's Cove and trying to visualize how those companies in the winter of 1857 suffered to the extreme and often death for what they believed in.

When he finished playing his trumpet.... I was touched, and I thought, "You know, the service I've been asked to give really isn't that much compared to what those early saints gave.

Now I wonder if there will be times in the lives of others who experienced our summers' activity, when they will reflect on the service that you gave as you shared your wonderful musical talents.

But mostly what I think we'll remember is that great love and spirituality that you shared with us. For some, you had a chance to model what real

life is all about. Years from now we'll remember that you shared with us your example and testimony. Perhaps some day someone else will render "Come, Come, Ye Saints" and memories will come flooding back of your service.

When I am in attendance with a group of individuals who are there because of dedication to the youth, I never cease to sit in awe and wonder at that which you represent. The warm glow of the meaning of the parable of the Good Samaritan reaches out across the centuries from Galilee. I'm certain that I can hear that greatest of all teachers interpreting the efforts of such individuals "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Steve's talents have touched us in so many ways...What a spiritual giant and example to us all. We shall be forever in his debt for his help and example going down the scouting trail.

Thank-you Steve Larsen for your wonderful example and selfless service.

Sincerely,

LaMont and Barbara Gibson

Steve,

Just wanted to drop you a note to let you know we are thinking about you. Thank you for all your support and encouragement through the past few years. You are an incredibly strong and generous person and we think you are such a great example to us all. Please know you are in our prayers at this time. We promise we will make you proud!!!

Heather, Troop 262

Dear Steve

I am so sorry to hear of your condition. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Please be strong.

You are a great person and have touched many people's lives including Randy's and mine.

You are in our every thought and prayer. Love, Randy and Bonny Jennings

I'd just like to let Steve know that he is in my thoughts and prayers.

He has been a wonderful strength to the Cedar Badge program, which has changed my life.

I remember when I was a new staffer and didn't feel like anyone knew me, but the friendliness of Steve and others made a positive difference in my life to where I felt like my contribution was important.

I remember, in 2007, my first staff year, wondering if I'd done the right thing in choosing to be on staff, since I was the first in my family, and the many responsibilities delegated to me were stressing me out.

At the Sealander Park meeting on Friday night, Steve asked all the staff to kneel for a prayer, which he offered. As he prayed that night, I felt a peaceful assurance that I was in the right place, and doing what I needed to be doing. I don't remember exactly what he said then, but then and since I know Steve to be a man of God.

I have learned especially this past year that God is mindful of us in our trials and troubles, and he has everything in control. Whatever happens in the future, it is in his hands.

Thank you, Steve, for all the wonderful support and love you put into the most wonderful program ever. I have personally benefited from knowing you, as you have helped guide and inspire our individual potential towards greatness.

Natascia May

Please give Steve Larsen our love and support. He is a giant among us. What ever we can do please let us know and we will obey. The Lord helping us in our prayers and please tell Steve that he owes me a dinner at Rupp's. Keep us abreast of the news.

Love you all, Bob & Ada Anderson 521 1711

Steve,

My friend, when I heard the news I swallowed hard, as did everyone. I pray for your strength and the strength of your family to endure. I appreciate all you have done for me – you are the perfect example of leadership. I enjoyed working with you in Scouting and for the Servant Leadership presentation that you gave at staff meeting that I will never forget. It was more than just lip service – it's the man in the mirror. Thank you and Sue for everything. I know a lot of people are pulling for you and your family. I loved you! Hang in there Heavenly Father will bless you and your family with what you need.

David J. Jones, Scout Executive & CEO

Yucca Council, Boy Scouts of America

El Paso, TX 79925 1-800-580-4272 or 915-772-2292

Thank you Steve for being such a dear friend.

Janet and I have looked forward to your and Sue's visit each year at our annual Christmas Open House.

I have enjoyed working with you over the last eight years. I will never forget how welcomed you made me feel when I started working here, and when I came to visit you at Island Park Scout Camp.

When I was given that opportunity a few years later I tried to emulate what I had seen you do at camp. A big thanks for building and installing the flushable toilets at camp!

I have always enjoyed working with you at the Tiger Ear Booth. I have enjoyed the morning shifts that we have shared because it gave me some time to talk with and learn from you before things got too busy.

Your help and support with the Traveling Day Camp was tremendous.

Your great singing voice is missed at our office birthday lunches.

Your cheerful attitude has been an inspiration.

May God's blessings always be with you and your family,

Your friend, David Widdison

Dear Steve and Family:

Your dedication and service has been an inspiration to us. Your unselfish giving of your time and efforts has and will help tens of thousands of young men become great leaders with integrity in our country.

God will bless and always be with you and your family.

The District Advancement Chairmen of the Grand Teton Council

at the Council Program Meeting January 28, 2009

Steve Earl, Council Advancement Chairman

208-313-2420 cell steve@earlswireless.com

Steve, it was with great sorrow and concern that I learned of the state of your health.

I can only say that from the very first time I met you until the very present, you have been special to me. You have been so patient with me, even in my dumbest or frustrated moments, when others took offense. It has been your example and help that have even kept me in the Scouting program. Besides your knowledge, assistance and guidance for me, you have done the same for all persons and in all settings.

I can truly say that your leadership has developed in me a love for Scouting and what it can do for the leaders and the youth. I will treasure our association. I will try to emulate your example as best I can.

I can only give you my deepest thanks and offer prayers for your best. May God keep you close and give you his choicest blessings.

Sincerely,
Steve Roberts

Steve,

If ever I had a hero, you would be one of them! You have made a difference in my life! Each time I associate with you, I learn something! You are a wonderful example to me! I hope I can live to be half the man you are, Steve!

There are two things that I will always remember about you, Steve. I will always be grateful for your wonderful bugling! As a fellow trumpet player, I know how hard playing a freezing cold trumpet can be early in the morning. I always love to hear you at Cedar Badge flag ceremonies! I will also always remember how great you are at quoting inspirational poems and passages. They always make campfires and Scout's owns so much more meaningful!

Thank you so much, Steve, for being the wonderful man you are! You are in my prayers. I know you have a good future ahead of you, despite the challenges that you may face.

Your friend,

Jonathan Meyers

Dearest Steve,

Words cannot describe how I feel about this whole ordeal. You have been such a great friend to me that when I think about you being sick, my heart hurts and I wish that I could do more for you. Steve you have been one of the linchpins of the whole Cedar Badge program keeping us together. You truly represent the motto BE KNOW DO. I know that you not only believe in and know the many aspects of this program, but that you actually live them. I am so grateful to have had you as a mentor and such a good friend. We have had some pretty good times Steve! I just loved hanging out and talking to you at Island Park and at Treasure Mountain. You make me laugh!

You have a spirit that radiates your excitement and commitment to Cedar Badge.

I just wanted you to know Steve that I appreciate the work that you have done for all of us. This program would be stuck in the mud without you and I am proud to know you! Your daughter Sara Kay and I were on the same crew my participating year and I tell you what: you raised a good daughter!

Thank you so much again Steve. You are in my prayers and will be part of the Cedar Badge memory forever. God Bless you Steve!

TOGETHERNESS AND BROTHERHOOD!

Your Friend,

Jess Davis

Dear Steve,

My dear friend and brother.

Please know that I would like to come and see you.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and if I could take this burden from you I would. Maybe you can imagine me walking beside you helping carry this burden because in my heart that is where I am, because I love you.

I appreciate so much the spirit that you always have with you and the kindness and love you show to others.

You are one of the best examples that I have ever been associated with and my life is better for having the privilege of knowing you.

We will carry this burden together!

YOU ARE LOVED BY SO MANY

I Love you, your friend and brother.

Kent Harmon

To Cedar Badge's beloved Steve Larsen:

As a Cedar Badge staffer, I have had the wonderful opportunity to get to know Steve Larsen. He is a living example of the values and beliefs that Boy Scouts hold so near to their hearts. We all love him very much, and are eternally grateful for the service and leadership he has given. Thank you so much.

Love, Zak Fica

Steve,

At a time like this it is hard to know what to say. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. I have always enjoyed associating with you and appreciate the positive

attitude that you have always carried. Thank you for the countless hours of service that you have given for the benefit of our youth and the entire community.

Best Wishes Always,

Zane & Janae Hansen

Steve,

I speak before hundreds if not thousands of people every week, face to face. That is easy compared to finding the right words to support a good friend. Things like get well soon, good luck and we're pulling or praying for you hardly seem enough at a time like this. But I shall try.

You introduced me to Rotary. Thank you for that. For those reading this, that might not understand, every person needs to support something bigger than themselves. It's human nature to want to help others to get that good feeling. You gave me that opportunity at the right time and with the right organization. It allowed me to grow and branch out into Chamber of Commerce work and even announcing. Thanks is not enough. But telling you I have been supporting the community now for nearly 20 years thanks to you will tell you how important your little introduction to Rotary really was.

Now to change the subject a little and while I have you cornered so to speak, we need to find a new song to sing at Rotary. I am actually learning most of the words of "My Country tis of Thee." But my voice is designed for speaking, not singing. We need to find a really simple song so I can keep up and get the words right. This assumes that you will be back to Rotary shortly and I am convinced you will be. So while you are getting your strength back, work on a new simple song.

Steve, my wife and I really are pulling for you. You are the kind of people we want to know and associate with, because you provide a good example to follow. I can't say it any better than that.

Charley and Debbie Hopkins

Dear Steve,

I am so grateful for the years we spent together serving in the Stake Presidency. Those were special years and experiences, and I appreciate the things that I learned from you. Those Ward

Conference Sundays were some long days, and even though we went home tired, they were all good experiences.

Please know that I appreciate the kindness, maturity, and professionalism that you exemplified as you worked with me to settle your father's estate.

Your help was essential.

And I appreciate having you as my friend.

Layne

On behalf of the Blackfoot Rotary Club, I wanted to pass the following messages on to our brother, Steve:

To a fellow trumpet player: you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Randy Hoffman

Steve:

One of my favorite quotes, attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson, embodies the person you are:

"To laugh often and much;

To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;

To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;

To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others;

To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;

To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.

This is to have succeeded."

Whether we get to keep you just one more day, or for many years to come, Steve, you have achieved the success that lives on – in those whose lives you have touched. Thank you for the honor of allowing me to observe and interact with the touch of greatness that you are.

Lauren Murdoch

Dear Steve & Family,

Just want you to know what a great example you have been to many and such a great contributor as an individual and with your talented family to our community.

It has been a pleasure to work with you in Rotary. Your wonderful voice and leadership is unequalled.

On a personal note, thanks for your help in the scouting program. My boys and Clay in particular have truly appreciated your help as they have worked towards their Eagle awards.

I know you and your family will be blessed for all the good you do for others.

Our prayers are with you all,

Ann Van Orden Blaser & Family

Dear Steve:

I am sorry to hear that your health is not good. I hope for the best for you and your family.

As you probably recall, you sponsored me into Rotary when you were the club president in about 1989. It has been a wonderful experience for me to be a part of Rotary all these years. As Alan Cannon liked to say, "I have met people I would have never met any other way from all

over the state and the world."

Over the last few years, when you have not made it to Rotary I have been the song leader in your absence. It has been humorous for the members to have me try to lead them in my squeaky uneven voice, not to mention that I can't beat time (this is in contrast to your beautiful smooth voice, perfect timing, and confidence). We miss you every time you are not at Rotary, especially when we sing.

I treasure the memory of the years we watched Sara Kaye and Zac in the school plays, chamber singers, piano recitals, and other musical performances. I enjoyed being one of the proud Dad's along with you at those special times and events.

Your service to your family, church, scouts, and rotary inspires me. I treasure your friendship and good example to me.

I hope you feel better soon.

I love you and wish you the best.

Scott Hansen January 29,09.

Steve is a great man.

He is always pleasant and friendly.

I have enjoyed knowing him over the years, especially as part of the Rotary club.

Steve, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

I hope to see you back in Rotary soon.

Sincerely,

Dave Cannon

Dear Steve,

I want to thank you for every thing that you have done for me with the Cedar Badge program. Through Cedar Badge, I have had many great and wonderful adventures, making new friends, doing incredible treks, and learning important life skills. But, the best thing that I have learned at Cedar Badge is manhood. Through it I have learned what it means to be a

real man- lending a hand to a brother in need, teaching someone else a skill I have learned, Living the Scout Oath and Law and pouring my heart into my God and Country.

I have recently earned my Eagle Rank. I am the 106th Eagle from my troop. I would not have been able to do this with out Cedar Badge.

So again, I thank you for everything that you have done for me. Now is the time for me to do something for you. You have my prayers and anything else that I can do for you; just let me know and I will do it.

But those who hope in The Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like Eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Brandon Scott Steele, 2nd(going on 3rd) year CB staffer

Dear Steve,

I am very sorry to hear about you! I REALLY hope that you recover quickly. Your influence on this program is pivotal. I am very thankful for the Cedar Badge program and how it has blessed my life. God really did have a hand in creating this wonderful course. Always remember that we love you and pray for you. May God bless you and give you strength.

TOGETHERNESS AND BROTHERHOOD!

Matt Monk,

Team Madison

Steve,

What can I say! It is such a shock to me to find out the news of your illness! What a great and loving man you are! Ready to help someone out any time. You reap what you sow. What you put into the lives of others comes back into your own. I can see that you have felt the blessings of that! So many people love you Steve! There is a poem that talks about that you never know when someone may catch a dream from you and I think that many have caught that dream from you. That another's life, through you, might possibly change for the better, with a broader and brighter view, the way you live may not matter at all but you never know- it might. It has mattered because you have made a difference in many peoples' lives. You have truly let your light shine and others have seen your good works and it has made many lights with more good works. The movie called "Pay it Forward" is about a boy who tries to truly do something to change the world. He didn't think it was working but it actually did more than he could imagine. Scouting in hand with the Gospel

can change lives and will continue to pay it forward as people catch the scouting spirit like you have.

You are an example and a hero to me. Thanks for all you have done for me! I love Scouting and you have been a part of that! I know we all pray for a miracle but it is in the end the Lord's will. He knows all and understands the whole plan and our part in it. He also knows where we are needed. He knows our desires and our struggles and he is there watching and listening to us. He is there with you and helping you and your family through this I know. We all love you Steve and all the service and love you have given to others. In Revelations 21:4 it says "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." I realized when I read that that God can do that for us all, wipe away all our tears, and I know we all have many right now. He also comforts us and gives us peace. Being members of His church we understand a greater plan then just our life here on earth. It is eternal and forever and we will be with our loved ones and see each other if we live our lives right. What a wonderful plan! John 11:25-26 reads "I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." That brings me alot of comfort. Sorry for the sermon, I felt prompted to write this.

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Thanks for everything! I love you Steve!

Your friend in Scouting!

Carolyn Weston

Dear Brother Steve,

I just got word of your illness. Man, some people have all the luck!

Before I was married, I had a wonderful friend that was a patriarch in our area. He was one of those spiritual giants we are sometimes blessed to meet. He told me that sometimes he would wake up from a sound sleep and sit straight up in bed because of the excitement that was going on beyond the veil. His spirit could feel the energy as the angels were preparing for the Savior's coming. He would get so excited telling us about the tremendous energy he sensed through the very thin veil. He said, "I can't decide if I want to stay here and watch it or get over there and HELP with the great preparation that is taking place!!!"

You have been involved with enough of the preparation of major events to understand all the work that goes on behind the scenes and "before

the parade" if you will. Can you imagine the magnitude of what is going on there!!! I've been married 33 years so this all happened before that time.

As hard as it is for us to imagine losing such a giant of a man, I'll bet there are many more on the other side of that very thin anxiously awaiting your arrival. I know that they must need someone to carry that "flag of freedom" or run with that torch, or blow that trumpet to announce that glorious event!

Wow, some of us don't get the chance to prepare for our graduation, the Lord just calls us home. It sounds as though you may beat some of us there. You may be surprised see to some of us there waiting for you though. No one but our loving Father knows for sure!

My family has been greatly blessed through our association with you through the past 10 years. We will always be grateful to you for your sweet smile, kind words, dedicated service, loving arms of friendship and devoted concern for others. You are truly a giant among men!!!

Thanks again for all you are and have given to others.

Our love and prayers are with you and your family!

Don and Susan Thompson and family (Robbie, Jason, Daniel, Ryan, David, and Rachel) Those are just the ones you know. The others are blessed as well because we have known YOU!!

A Tribute to Steve Larsen

I will be forever grateful to Steve for coming to our home and visiting with Becky and I about my serving on Wood Badge Staff. That has been a life-changing experience. He dragged this hiding hermit out of his shell into the world of serving people. Through all the years of Wood Badge and into Cedar Badge Steve has been for me the embodiment of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. He tolerated my struggling bugling and let me do echoing Taps with him at our Wood Badge Camp. That was one of the great experiences of my life, along with late night singing around the Growing Tree.

In seeing Steve pray I have often observed his profound faith and love for others. He has the depth of quiet and certain belief which I wish to achieve. He often speaks of the wonderful achievements of his family, causing me to make mental notes of how we can do better.

My life and that of all our family has been enriched through knowing Steve and the example of his beautiful family.

Andy Bradbury andybmt@yahoo.com

Dear Sue – I have just received word of the very serious nature of Steve's illness and we are deeply shocked to hear such difficult news. As well, it is so hard to know what to do to help and to bring you and your wonderful

family some help and comfort. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. We know a kind Heavenly Father will continue to bring you peace and comfort. We will continue to pray for this comfort to be yours and for Steve to be blessed as he battles this difficult situation.

Steve has always been one of my heroes. The two of you have been special friends. We are so grateful that such friendship has no limits nor boundaries. May God bless you and attend to your every care and need. And, please know how much we all love you and continue to pray for Steve and your family.

Our profound love,

Dave and Elaine Smith

To the Larsen family...

I want you all to know that you are in our family's prayers. Your whole family is very special to us. As a young man, your home was like a 2nd home to me. Your example during my young years helped to shape the path of my life. Your home was always so full of love and so full of life. Some of the fondest memories I have from growing up were in your home.

Thank you for your kindness and thank you for your example.

You have our love and our prayers.

Merritt L. VanOrden

I am writing on behalf of my mom and dad Wayne and Carol Mikesell. They are out of town for the weekend but wanted to be able to convey their thoughts and prayers to Steve and Susan. They wanted them to know of their love and appreciation for the more than forty years of friendship. Wayne has always spoken so highly of Steve and his association in scouting. Please know that they are thinking of the Larsens in their time of need and are praying for them.

With love in behalf of Wayne and Carol Mikesell

I will miss my friend Stephen. We have known each other for over 44 years. I first became acquainted with Stephen and Susan at Ricks College in 1966 when he was the Sophomore Class President. What a friend he was! Always had positive things to say and an uplifting word of friendship and encouragement. He has always been that way. Always with a smile and a real concern for others. Always so proud of his family and his lovely wife. I have had the privilege to work with him in scouting in the Blackfoot area and to call him my friend. The lord has something else for him to do now. I am so thankful to have been acquainted with him.

Wayne Mikesell

Dear Susan,

My brother, Gary, sent me a copy of Steve's obituary to inform me of his passing. You and your family are in our prayers.

This caused me to reflect on our time at Ricks, together. I greatly admired and enjoyed Steve. He had one of the best, most contagious smiles that I have seen, and it sincerely reflected his optimistic, happy countenance. He had a great sense of humor, quick wit, and a personality that drew everyone around in and lifted them. I remember what a great job he did in preparing a float for Ricks Days and can still remember the old "Ricks" building they presented to "Remember When." When you began dating, I was impressed at the great couple you

were. Alike in many ways but different enough to complement and enhance one another. Of the many wonderful friends we enjoyed at Ricks, you and Steve were among the elite few who greatly inspired me.

I was not aware or had forgotten that you have eleven children. What a wonderful legacy. You must feel so grateful for such a "full quiver" and to have shared this with Steve. I'm certain that they are a great consolation and support at this time.

I'm certain also that you are grateful for your testimony and knowledge of the gospel. Brenda and I often reflect on the magnitude of the blessing it is to have the gospel in our lives. The doctrine are so divine in concept, content and consequence! The counsel, wisdom, and reassurance from honorable and devoted leaders are a treasure worth far more than the riches of the world. And the peace, love, and gratitude that accompany sincere prayer, study of the

scriptures, and service are such a testimony of the divinity of our Father in heaven and His awareness of each of us, so personally. It is such a great blessing to share the influence of this gospel with a like-minded spouse, and to enjoy a family that is following in the same path.

I pray that you will feel sustained by the Holy Ghost, and feel our Father's tender love and mercy in this time of separation. We send our love and best wishes.

Bob and Brenda Lovell

To Sue,

We hope you know how much we love, respect and admire you and your family. We feel so badly that you must be separated from your sweetheart for a time and pray that the Spirit will be ever close to you in helping you through the days and years ahead.

That spirit which you and Steve lived your lives was in rich abundance at his funeral services. I have no doubt that every person was impacted in

a positive way and that each of us left that sacred meeting with renewed determination to better our own lives. We surely did.

Steve was a man of uncommon faith and testimony, as evidenced by his devotion to the Church and service to his fellow man. He set the gold standard for serving with all his "heart, might, mind and strength." Although his sudden departure seemed premature to all of us, I remember the statement Pres. Benson's made at Pres. Kimball's funeral "The death of a righteous man is never untimely because our Father sets the time."

You are a couple who have always had their priorities straight and knew what mattered most in life. You reared an exemplary family. With certainty we can join with nine other couples in saying "Thank you for raising an outstanding mate and eternal companion for my child." No parents could have done better.

We want you to know that we share with you a love for the inspired Perpetual Education Fund of the Church. A donation in Steve's name has been sent to that most worthwhile cause.

Thank you for sharing your exemplary lives with us. We love you
Morris and Jean Benson

Dearest Larsen Family,

I am forwarding this email from my son, Elder Zac Hansen, serving in the Guatemala Quetzaltenango Mission. He would like it to be accompanied by a huge and heartfelt hug to two of his heroes, SaraKay and Sue Larsen! ♥

From: Zachary Hansen

Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 8:45 AM

Hi Mom, Dad, and everyone,

Well, I am feeling pretty shocked right now and sad. I really wish I could be there right now to give Sara Kay and her Mom a big hug... I love them so much and I hope they know that. Thanks mom and dad for your emails. Everything you said about Steve was true and everyone

will miss him. I will always remember how friendly and kind he always was to me. He always smiled and was genuinely happy to see me. That makes a person feel really good, and he was that way with everyone. It is amazing how fast somebody healthy and happy like Steve can

die. I'm sure it is a huge shock and blow to their family, but really, if someone was prepared to die, it was Steve. Although there is pain and sadness because he is gone and his family won't be with him for a little while, there is NO worry that perhaps he wasn't ready or unprepared. All of us know where his is and what he has earned because of his life of

goodness and service. Now there is just a little time of sadness that comes with the separation, but soon their family will be together again; I KNOW that. I had to smile when you told me what Sara Kay had posted. That is just like her... I'm sure she is sad but she knows just what I do...everything is okay. She is awesome. Her mom too... she is a wonderful woman in my eyes, and together I'm sure they will be okay.

I love you all and will pray for the Larsens. Have a great week everyone, and remember that God loves us!

Elder Zac Hansen

Dear Sue:

Pat and I are in St. Petersburg, Russia. We are here serving a humanitarian mission for the church. I have received several letters in the past few days notifying me that Steve was ill, followed by news that he had passed away. Words will never adequately describe the deep sense of loss that we feel from this news. Our hearts are with you at this difficult time. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. We hope that you will find peace in the coming months.

I consider Steve to be a true friend and ally. I enjoyed my relationship with him through all of the years. He was always cheerful as we went through the work. He always had a positive attitude, believing that he could find solutions to every situation. His organizational skills made his plans work out. I am very proud to consider him as a special friend and fellow Scouter. We will certainly miss his company for years to come. It is a rare pleasure to work with a man who quietly pushes things along without any hint of controversy from his side. Steve has had a positive impact on our lives. A few short paragraphs now seem very little indeed to describe the feelings of respect that I feel for this good man.

Please know that I share your sense of loss. I love and respect your family and wish the best for all of you. I have no concern for Steve's welfare. I am completely at peace with his future and look forward to spending time with him again.

Best wishes to all of you.

Elder Tom Arave

Sister Pat Arave

From: Siri Holman <yesiri@hotmail.com>

Date: Sat, Jan 31, 2009 at 1:17 PM

Subject: so sorry

Just got the word on Steve's dad. We're so sorry you've lost someone so important to you ---- for a little while anyway. No doubt he'll be around in spirit to help comfort and console you. Dad's feel a great responsibility to take care of their families. Death can't change that for the most important things. We're sure praying for you and send our hugs and love to you.

Dear Susan and family:

We just heard about the passing of Steve. What a shock to hear he left this earth at such a young age! We have fond memories with our associations with both of you. It all began when I worked for Allan Larsen in the potato fields. We were out on the desert and had such fun playing spud baseball with Gary, Stephen, and all the others on the crew. Barbara and Allen were so gracious to us and even let us all in their home to watch some of the baseball World Series during our lunch breaks. It was truly a blessing for all of the Moreland area to have the Larsen family move into our midst.

And then Susan and I were blessed to serve together in the Stake Primary, along with Kathryn Katseanes. Those were beautiful times. We had such a great working relationship serving together. I learned more under your leadership, Susan, than anyone else I have ever served with. You were truly inspired. If I remember right, we had our sons "John" while we served together. And it is such a nice thing to know that your grandmother was also my grandmother – the only grandmother I ever knew in this life.

Our memories of Steve will be sweet ones because he was always so kind and happy. He had great parents and a wonderful wife and family to support him in all he did. He will be sorely missed. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you and that we know you will be together again for all eternity.

Thank you for all the great influences you've shared in this world!

We love you.

Judy and Delos Elison

Dear Larsen Family,

I was saddened to hear that your husband and father had passed away.

I was blessed to know and work with him in the Moreland 6th ward. He always had good ideas, found the good in everyone and made us all feel important. He was very much a Christ like man. I know Father in Heaven needed him for some great cause. He was always so upbeat and inspiring to me. He was a great leader, scriptorian, singer, scoutmaster, and, he could snore with the best of us.

I remember one time commenting to my oldest son, Justin, about being more like the Larsen boys. His reply to me was that I should be more like their father! Steve was a topic of discussion at the Moreland INL bus stop. Numerous times while standing in line to board the site bus before dawn, he would peddle by on his bike, with his headlight and tail light flickering, while wearing his spandex and helmet.

I am a better person for the time I spent with Steve, and to have been associated with all of you.

May God bless you and watch over you.

Sincerely

Jeff Cook

The Larsen family,

I want to offer my condolences on the passing of Steve. Some of my best times in scouting and church activities were with him. He was an amazing person, and taught me many things during my time in scouting. I remember when he taught us all the Kum-Bi-Ya song around the camp fire we had some good times. I know how hard it is to lose a loved one unexpectedly. My mother died a few years ago, and it is hard. My prayers will be with your family.

Sincerely

Justin Cook

Hello,

I just wanted to let everyone know how greatly Steve will be missed. My whole family absolutely loved him, even my 10 month old daughter loved to go and visit him at the Scout Office. This is a very hard time in your lives I know because I miss my dad terribly. It gets better. Don't forget the good times, write them all down. It will help.

Let me know if there is anything that we can do,

Love

Denise and Katreena Mickelsen

Steve,

There is more that I wanted to say in my email and my computer sent it before I was finished. I wanted SaraKay to know that for me, since we are close to the same age, the best thing that I have done is keep one of my dad's coats whenever I put it on I can smell him and I feel as though he is hugging me. Please tell her to take a coat back to school with her. It really will help. Also please let your mom know that my mom is thinking of

her and will get in touch as soon as she can. She is having a hard time with the recent passing of my father.

Thanks

Denise

Dear Sue and Larsen Family,

My heart is heavy today for all of you as you deal with the passing of your husband and father. I was so saddened to receive the news of Steve's passing and surprised to learn of the swiftness of his illness. I was told this would be an address to which I could send my condolences and a place to share a memory.

It's strange sometimes, the memories that stick out in your mind of someone. I have different memories of Mr. Larsen from choir practices on Sunday evenings to neighborly chats, and to leadership roles he held in my youth. There has always been this one arbitrary memory that has stood out in my mind for years. We were on a young men's activity floating the river from below Palisades Dam down several miles to a pick up location. It was an all day activity and it was hot. I was positioned somewhere in the back of the same raft as Mr. Larsen who was positioned up at the front. He was guiding our boat full of youth down the river paddling to keep us in the same path as the other rafts and leaders in front of us. A few of the kids including myself had paddles of our own that we would use when instructed to push us in a particular direction. I'm not exactly certain as to why I thought I had any skills paddling a raft in a river, but I did and I found myself quietly assisting Mr. Larsen from the back. Needless to say, my assistance was anything but assistance. It more closely resembled me dragging my oar in our wake and giving a slight stroke backwards and in the opposite direction, left or right, of Mr. Larsen's more vigorous strokes in the front..... I truly thought I was helping! I'm not sure how long this went on but it had to have been an hour. Lol At some point, he obviously realized what was happening and pulled me from my absent thoughts with a verbal correction. It went something like, "Jon, you are completely hindering every effort I am making to get us where we need to go. Please stop." I was shocked. First of all, how did he know I had been 'helping' him this whole time? Secondly, why didn't he appreciate my help?! J He had no malice in his voice, of course, and the rest of the trip went smoothly.

I was lucky to have a few more years of interaction with him before moving away and there is nothing but good memories in that time. My thoughts have occasionally wandered randomly back to that moment over the years and the shock I had from being corrected by Brother Larsen. There's absolutely no reason I should still associate some small feeling of hurt with that moment. Perhaps the heat of that day coupled with the sincerity of my intentions, however misguided, and the small feeling of

disappointing Mr. Larsen, gave that memory staying power. What I do know is that while revisiting that memory, after learning of his death, I had such an incredible moment of peace about it. I think it was the moment I could envision him correcting his own children as a loving father does to help them stay on course that I suddenly had that feeling of peace. It is the realization that if his wonderful family is a reflection of a lifetime of corrections, then I was truly blessed to have been corrected by him even in passing. I hope peace will fill your hearts at this time and the days to come.

With Love,
Jonathan Davis

Von guten Mächten wunderbar umgeben
Surround by good might
erwarten wir getrost was kommen mag
we expect confidentially what will occur
Gott ist mit uns am Abend und am Morgen
god is with us in the evening and in the morning
und ganz gewiß an jeden neuen Tag
and for sure at every new day.
by Dietrich Bonhoefer
(killed in the KZ by the Nazis)
part out of a song out of that time

Dear Shauntel

I have been with you in thoughts all day long. It is good that everything was said. I also had this part of a song in my mind. It is one of my favourite gospels, however it was written by Bonhoefer, while he was in the starving tower. It has often comforted me. But in face of death knowing that somebody wrote it, while waiting for his death, it receives a total new meaning.

I do remember you father quite well as a loving father and husband. I remember when your parents took me on a trip to Salt Lake City, and when you showed me the Temple. This is one of my best memories out of my Blackfoot times. My thoughts are also with your mother. Please tell her that I am also with her in my prayers.

So far we are all ok. Armin's father is very sick, though. I will call you in a week or two.

Love
Ivonne

Dear Sue and family,

Oh, how our love goes out to you at this time. A flood of emotions and memories filled our hearts as we heard of Steve's passing. Our family enjoyed sharing stories, reminiscing and recalling the events that we shared with him and your family. What a giant, both physically and spiritually he was, touching our lives and that of our family for good in so many ways. You and your family have blessed us all by your kindness and stalwart example of righteousness. We love you! It seems just like yesterday that we were in your home saying goodbye as we were preparing to move to Arizona. That was nearly 4 years ago and yet the fondness of your friendship is as endearing as it was then. Understanding that life is eternal truly is a blessing, that love and friendship do not end nor diminish with time because the feelings of the spirit are not fleeting or momentary.

Our association with Steve through scouting, Church callings, ward activities, school functions, children, or neighborly interaction was always uplifting and we never left without feeling better having shaken his large hand and being greeted with his warm, cheerful smile.

What a wonderful friend we found in Steve and his entire family. Thank you all for sharing him and emulating his goodness. His life and example will live on and grow through you.

With fondest memories,

Dan and Jennifer Crites

Dear Larsen Family,

I am so sorry to hear of your recent loss. I worked with Susan at the Blackfoot Charter School, and I was friends with Mike. I met Steve on various occasions and was so impressed by the wonderful man he was. I was also always impressed by your amazing family. Thank goodness you have each other to support each other at this time, as well as the knowledge of the plan of salvation.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Becky (Tolman) Ginos

Dear Family,

Hello everyone, how are you doing?? I hope that all is great. I am shocked to hear about Steve Larsen. I honestly didn't know him that well but whenever I saw him he came up and shook my hand, asked me how I was doing and acted like we were best friends. I'm sure that he liked me so much because of Zac. He knew how to make people feel good about themselves; he was an amazing person. I send my condolences to their family; I can't even imagine how hard that would be. However, they are strong members of the church and they have knowledge of the Plan of Salvation. Just like Zac said, "They'll only be separated for a short time and then they'll be together again." I can't put it any better than that. Zac is a wise man.

Jacob Hansen

Jan. 29 – 2009 - It is a Bitter Sweet Day to write about our Dear Neighbor Steve Larsen. As shock set in to think about losing such a giant of a man, our thoughts turned to all the wonderful memories we have - with such a great family. This coming November we will have lived by the Larsen's 18 years. I remember the day we moved in - the Larsen's were one of the very first to welcome us. They had made us sandwich's that day, as things worked out we never got to eat them, but we have never forgotten that kind gesture.

When we moved here Reed wasn't active, when he learned we were going to live by a former bishop, and a stake president down the road, he wasn't sure what he had done - moving us to Moreland Idaho. Thank Heavens the Lord knew!

Steve got our boys involved in scouting first thing. We have three boys that are Eagle Scouts, all because he cared enough to get us started. We have learned that Steve is just a Big kid with a fun loving Scout spirit inside. Steve even sang at Brodie's Eagle Court of Honor. Steve started making these wonderful carved walking sticks, our Brodie really wanted one, so Steve helped his son Tim and our Brodie to make a beautiful carved walking stick. Brodie still has his to this day.

Steve ordained our oldest son Brodie to be a Deacon, when it was time for Brodie to be ordained a Teacher, we asked Steve again, in his wisdom, he pulled Reed aside and said Why don't you ordain Brodie, Reed said I can't, then he encouraged him to go to the bishop and take care of what he needed - to be able to. Reed was able to ordain Brodie a Teacher. The Larsens have been missionaries every day of their lives.

Every time we see Steve, he says Hi Neighbor, how are you doing? We get that big hand shake and wonderful smile. When we moved here we took up the job of worming our front lawn to make extra money. Steve always had a clever comment for us, how's them worm pickers or I see your out doing your worm chores, always making us laugh in the middle of a slimy job.

One of our funniest memories is “Steve the Fire Man!!!” It wasn’t really funny at the time, but looking back, it will make you Roar. Once – NO – Twice!!! he decided to burn his field, the wind was just right, until he lit the match, then all heck broke loose, a horizontal plume of smoke - whipped by a vortex of wind - shot directly to the Mangums home, smoke so thick you couldn’t see their house, yes possibly neighborhood relations were strained - but luckily Steve is the kind of guy everyone forgives easily. He burned a few trees another time, but once again he got the good guy exemption and was easily forgiven. He was just like a kid, with matches.

Steve loves to ride his bike for exercise. One time he even tried to pick a fight with the neighborhood dog, unfortunately he lost!

Steve sings with such power and reverence. We have loved hearing him in our ward choir.

In the spring, Steve would prune his apple trees, they looked so professional. One day I told Reed I wanted my apple trees to look like the Larsen’s, he thought that was a good idea. So Derek and I set out to do just that. When Reed came home he was shocked, he said: I didn’t mean the size of the Larsen’s. You see they had dwarf trees and ours were full size. Ours then looked like dwarfs. Unfortunately we didn’t get apples for the next couple of years. When our apple trees started producing again, the Larsen’s invited us and some other neighbors - to all bring our apples and press the juice. We had the best time, laughing, telling jokes and enjoying apple juice.

With our gardens I was always trying out a new salsa, Steve loves Salsa so he was always willing to taste my new salsa recipe, even if it was a bit hot.

One Christmas, Susan wanted to learn to make caramels, I told her it was easy, so she invited me over and I taught her how to make caramels and she taught me how to make nougat. Now every year Steve and Susan make pecan caramel logs for all the neighbors, we have loved every bite.

Steve is known for the Tiger Ear booth. Recruiting any neighbor he could get his hands on. It was always a joy to work for Steve at the fair and take home a few tiger ears. He told me once he would trade other booths - tiger ears - to taste all the other food. Reed and I came from the same mold, we love fair food to.

Steve is at almost every ditch meeting, we have held at least two at our home. After business I have always served Hershey Butter Toffee Cookies, Steve even being a diabetic, always had his share. He loves those cookies.

On Sundays Steve gives an excellent faith filled Sunday School lesson, he is the only person that has come close to our very best Teacher - his wife Susan. The last Sunday Steve gave his lesson, I was sitting by a

sister in Relief Society that hadn't been to church for years, she said I just love the Sunday School teacher, his lesson today helped me so much.

The past few months, when I would see Steve, I would think that man glows, his countenance is so beautiful. Now I know why - he was preparing to return to his Savior. Steve is a walking example of the kind of husband and father every family deserves. His family has always been his first priority. What an example this family has set for our family and our neighborhood. The great part about this whole thing is - he knows where he is going, and he isn't afraid, he has prepared. The sad part is he knows he's leaving his wife and his family behind, and how much they will miss each other. The consolation is that they all know they are sealed for eternity and will be together forever - if they live lives set by the example of their father and mother.

Steve we love you, you will be missed more than you know. Good-bye until we meet again, by the way could you put a good word in for the Hanni's!

Reed and Melanie Hanni and Family

There is a Reason for Everything
Our Father knows what's best for us,
So why should we complain--
We always want the sunshine,
But He knows there must be rain--
We love the sound of laughter
And the merriment of cheer,
But our hearts would lose their tenderness
If we never shed a tear...
Our Father tests us often
With suffering and with sorrow,
He tests us, not to punish us,
But to help us meet Tomorrow...
For growing trees are strengthened
When they withstand the storm,
And the sharp cut of the chisel
Gives the marble grace and form...
God never hurts us needlessly,
And He never wastes our pain,
For every loss He sends to us
Is followed by rich gain...
And when we count the blessings
That God has so freely sent,
We will find no cause for murmuring
And not time to lament
For Our Father loves His children,
And to Him all things are plain,
So He never sends us Pleasures

When the Soul's Deep Need is Pain...
So whenever we are troubled,
And when everything goes wrong,
It is just God working in us
To make Our Spirit Strong.

--Helen Steiner Rice

Listen With Your Heart

Memories are a treasure
Time cannot take away...
So may you be surrounded
By happy ones today...
May all the love and tenderness
Of special years well spent
Come back today to fill your heart
With beauty and content...
And may you walk down MEMORY LANE
And meet the one you love
For while you cannot see him
He'll be watching from above...
And if you trust you're dreaming
Your faith will make it true...
And if you listen with your heart
He'll come and be with you...
So for his sake be happy
And show him that his love
Has proven strong and big enough
To reach down from above...
And you will never walk alone
When Memory's Door swings wide...
For you'll find that you're dear One.
Is always by your side.

--Helen Steiner Rice

Dear Susan and Family,

In the 2008 Women's General Broadcast - Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf - told of President Hinckley's knowledge of the Healing Power of Service. Some time after Sister Hinckley had passed away - He shared this with a woman who had recently lost her husband - Work Will Cure Your Grief - Serve Others!

I know of No one who does this more than you Susan!

As Joyous as reunions are in Heaven, it still breaks our hearts to say good-bye. May Heaven's Angels surround you at this hard time

Reed and Melanie Hanni, Brodie and Ashley Hanni,
Taylor and Briannia Ball, Kyle Hanni, Derek and Laressa Hanni

Dear Sue and Family,

It is hard to know where to start when it comes to recording and sharing memories of your dear companion, Father and Grandfather.

Whatever the relationship may be, we want you to know that Steven had a significant impact on our family.

Ten years ago, in April of 1999, our lives changed forever with the death of one of our family members. Consequently, 3 children were left without parents and came to live with our family. We were thrust into a situation we had not anticipated, with children who had many issues

to deal with that we were unprepared for. Michael and I recognized a special need for Mori to have a successful summer following the death of his Mother. We knew that he had a love for scouting and was working hard toward his Eagle rank advancement. We thought that perhaps the answer would be to have him working with scouts at camp. Steven was the camp director for Island Park that year and we approached him with a special request to see if he could find a place on his staff for Mori. It was late in the year and staff had already been selected, so we knew there would have to be exceptions made. Steven was so positive and helpful and found room for Mori on his staff. Mori had a wonderful summer under Steven's watchful, caring

concern, he quickly became one of Mori's heros, as well as ours! We will be forever grateful to him for his willingness to share our burden at that time. He had a great ability to see a need, follow the whisperings of the Spirit and act upon them.

We hope that we can in some small way repay his kindness to us during a difficult time. We loved this great man! I remember one particular visit I had as it was time to renew my temple recommend. What a sweet interview I had with him! I can't remember the words we spoke, but I will never forget the sweet spirit of peace I felt as he taught me principles I had not considered before. He was a marvelous teacher!

As parents, we have often wondered and considered how we could emulate your family in our parenting skills. We are often asked if we are related to the Steven Larsen family and we are always tempted to say...YES! We have admired your relationship with each other and with your children. We hope, as children to this great couple, you will remember the principles taught in your home and continue the legacy of the Larsen family. You are strong, humble, capable, courageous and faithful. You have been built on a strong foundation with testimonies

of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. May the spirit of the Holy Ghost be your guide as you continue on these next days, months and years. May you feel His sweet comfort as you come to understand and accept the will of the Father.

Know that this Larsen family loves yours! We will never forget the kindness and friendship we have cherished over the years. We will continue to remember you in our prayers and know that Heavenly Father's choicest blessings will be yours.

Love,

Michael and Nicky Larsen and family

Dear Sue and Family,

Our hearts are heavy with your loss; but it is a peaceful feeling to know and understand the principles of the gospel and the promises of eternity. Stephen was an exemplary influence on everyone with whom he came in contact. He was compassionate and seemed to easily understand the needs of other people. We always felt warmth and friendship from

him no matter the circumstances. The two of you together have been an inspiration to all of us who have known you; and, your family has been an example of integrity and commitment not only to each other, but also to our community.

You will all continue to be in our prayers; that you will be able to bear this sorrow through the support and love within your family as well as the support and love you will continue to receive from the many, many others who surround you. May the Lord comfort you and hold

you close to him at this very difficult time.

You have our sympathy and our love --

Paul and Carol Robertson

Here are some pictures I found. I remember Brother Larsen always being the first up in the morning, starting breakfast and always being the last to eat. He always thought of others before himself. I learned a lot about scouting, and life. I will miss him.

Matthew Gardner

The day I met Steve was a red-letter day in my book!! We only met a couple of years ago when I helped with Cub Scout Pow-wow & University of Scouting in 2007.

His humor is what comes to mind immediately-----especially his imitation of Lawrence Welk. It made me laugh everytime °Ü° All the things he had

memorized and could quote were amazing! All I had to do was ask and he'd pull something up from memory or his palm pilot.

What a GREAT example of service----to everyone & anyone. My life has been blessed 10-fold by my short friendship with Eagle Steve.

Lisa Reed/Tendoy District

I am probably one of the few people in these stakes who remember Stephen as a very young boy because we both came from the Shelley Stake years ago.

I remember Stephen sitting by his mother and father in Stake Conference on the front row of the L.D.S. Tabernacle in Shelley (a very special building - which later burned down). At that point in time his mother Barbara often played the organ in stake conference and I believe she was doing that then. His grandfather J. Berkley Larsen - a wonderful man - was stake president. The boys in the family would sit on or near the front row with their parents.

Later we moved to Moreland, as did the Larsens, and my husband, Dalyle, became involved in what was then called the Explorer program in scouting within the church. In an effort to encourage the boys in his care to read the Book of Mormon he promised them a leather bound

Book of Mormon if they would read the Book of Mormon through. Stephen took that challenge and I believe he was the first of the boys in that class to receive a new leather bound Book of Mormon from my husband. My husband said the cost of the leather bound book was absolutely worth it if any boy read the Book of Mormon through.

We were friends with Barbara and Allen, Stephen's parents, and my husband Dalyle worked with Allen in Potato Growers of Idaho.

We watched Stephen mature, marry Susan and raise a family. We always felt a deep sense of kinship and love for Stephen and Susan. Our youngest daughter Merrilee, became dear friends with their daughter, Rebecca.

My son DaLon works with Scouting and held Stephen in high esteem. His eyes were wet with tears as he spoke of Stephen's work with the Scouting program.

We send our love to this family. Stephen and Susan are remarkable examples of what parents of a family should be.

Jean Esplin

Dear Larsen Family,

It is hard to think of just a few memories of a man that has been such a tremendous neighbor and friend for so long. I do have a favorite memory I would like to share. I'll never forget the time I went to Las Vegas with him! Of course this was not an illicit affair. I went with 6 other ladies to a Trails end Popcorn Seminar for the Grand Teton Council. We had such a fun time! We drove down in a van. In addition to the Seminar we did a lot of sight seeing and went to a show. Steve said he felt like Brigham Young running around with 7 ladies! Sue told me that when he got home he told her, "Those women ran me ragged!"

I will always be grateful for him being responsible for me being able to attend Cub Scout Trainer Woodbadge over 15 years ago. I was so proud to be an "eagle" like him!

Steve was a superb Scout leader. The world of Scouting is much better because of him, his hard work and dedication. He truly lived the Scout Law.

I enjoyed singing in the Moreland 6th ward choir and other choirs with him. Randy remembers when we were first married he sang in the ward choir. Randy wasn't given the special singing talent that Steve had. However Randy said Steve never made him feel inferior. Randy enjoyed singing next the the 'tower of man' that Steve was.

I have always admired his sense of humor, his positive attitude, his genuine concern for others, his hard work and dedication to everything he was involved in and his tremendous testimony of the gospel! He was always fun to have around whether you were at a ward party or sacrament meeting! He was truly a giant of a man physically as well as spiritually!

I am lucky to have know him! I will look forward to seeing him again someday and feel his strong hand in his warm hand shake!

My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time!

With Lots of Love,

Joyce Edie

Careene,

Hey! Thanks for sharing the recipe! I think the only modification Larsens made was not to add the nuts.....I don't ever recall almonds or pecan halves in there.

Your visit was NOT irreverent....it was delightful visiting with you. I'll add this recipe to dad's tribute book we're making for him so all can enjoy.

Steve

On Mon, Feb 2, 2009 at 12:43 PM, Careene and Shawn
<sceliot11@msn.com> wrote:

If I don't send this now while I am remembering, I won't. (Contrary to what Steve said, I am getting old and don't remember things too well anymore). This is the recipe as it came out of the book. You guys were the ones that perfected it, so if you have tips to make it better, you could share them. I hope our visit on Saturday wasn't too irreverent. It wasn't meant to be.

It was good to see you all again. I hope you know how much I appreciated your dad. He was always so patient and kind. He always made me feel so important and loved and continued to do so even as recent as Christmas when we were up there. He is a great man. Take comfort in knowing where he is. I know he is probably going to be very busy, but know that he will be there for you when you need him and for all those special family occasions. We continue to pray for you and hope you know how much we love you all.

Crazy Crunch (aka Godfrey Popcorn)

3 to 4 quarts popped popcorn
1 1/3 cup pecan halves
2/3 cup almonds
1 1/3 cup sugar
1 cup butter or margarine
1/2 cup white corn syrup
Dash of salt

Combine sugar, butter or margarine, corn syrup, and dash of salt. Bring to boil, stirring constantly, to hard crack stage (290° to 300°). Add a teaspoon of vanilla and pour the hot mixture over the popcorn and nuts; spread out on a cookie sheet. Break up when cool and store in an airtight container.

Shawn - Careene - and the Crew

Dear Sue and family,

Please know that it is with greatest emotion that I write these wonderful memories I have of Steve. First though, I would like all of you to know how grateful I am that you shared your husband and father with us at the Scout Office. I am grateful for our knowledge of the true Plan of Salvation. I KNOW from personal experience when my own husband was dying that we are surrounded by those righteous loved ones on the other side. They do watch over us and comfort us. Steve was, and still is, a very spiritual person. He was humble and caring and he knew when to have a fun time. He made fantastic headway on Eagles. Steve and I have been trying hard for a long time to raise the bar on Eagles. It has been a hard up hill fight to educate the units in the Grand Teton Council to get the standards back up where they used to be years ago. I, Ben, and Steve Earl could never have

accomplished the great improvements without Steve being there with his wisdom and support. There has been made the first printed Official Policy and Procedures on Eagles, this has also been put on our web site for all to see. He has been there to comfort and support me in words when some Eagles got to be very difficult and argumentative on the side of the Eagle candidate's family or leaders. It will be hard for me, because everyday that I check my Eagle papers from the Eagle candidates, I will think of him.

I will not have his support with those that are trying to slide by and I have to enforce the rules.

He always had a smile for me when he came to the office. And when I asked him how he was doing, he would answer with a nasal slurred "wunnerful,wunnerful" sound. (W.C. Fields)

There have been times when I needed an extra bit of spiritual guidance, and he would be visiting the Idaho Falls Office. I would ask him if he had time to talk a minute. He would smile and have me tell him the problem (with my family, etc). Then, with his great wisdom and tender ways, he would speak with me on the subject. You see, I am a widow and have been for close to 17 years now. As a matter of fact, when he spoke with me on the phone early

Monday January 26th to tell me that he was diagnosed with acute leukemia, I offered to be there for Sue if she ever needs someone to talk with. He calmly said "I'm sure that she will have some of those widow moments".

I really do mean it... I will be here for you, but since I am so far away in location, please, please do not hesitate to call me. My home number is 528-0911 and the office is 522-5155.

I always have said that Steve and Sue are one of the most perfect Eternal couples I have ever met. I am so glad that you two are sealed together for Time and All Eternity. Thank you for sharing Steve with me and with us. When Sue was gone (I can't remember where, possibly a new baby last year) she was gone for a week or two, Steve came into the office and said how he could hardly wait until Sue got back...he was so lonely for her. She made everything good and right. I am glad I have gotten to know Sue a bit. I am also glad that since Steve had to go, that he was able to go quickly and with as little suffering as possible. My family was fasting for him on Sunday, asking the Lord to extend his life for several years if possible, (I have seen miracles happen), and we were begging the Lord to take my dear sweet Mother who is suffering and slowly dying from a terrible rare cancer. The Lord must have needed Steve there for him to be taken so quickly. (We were in emergency mode all weekend with my Mother, yet she is still here).

We do not always know why things happen they way they do, we have to trust in the Lord and his wisdom, even when it is hard to do so at times.

May God Bless you all and comfort you. Talk about the memories with Steve. He is not dead, he is just on a special mission in his life.

With Love,

Marilyn and Summer Kelly and family

Dear Larsen Family, Our thoughts & prayers are with your family at this time. Steve was a giant of a man in all ways - patience, kindness & thoughtfulness. He will truly be missed by everyone who knew him. We have gotten very well acquainted with him through the Boy Scouts especially the Tiger Ear booth. He has been our hero & helper for many years. You are indeed a blest family to have been a part of his family.

Our sincerest sympathy, Seren & Peggy Chandler, Inkom

Dear Steve,

I just found out about the recent findings of your condition of health from Ben Hansen and then got more updated by your beloved brother Gary last night. I must say that I am saddened by the news, but am overjoyed that you are a true and faithful son of God who has gone

about doing good through your life. You have been in my thoughts and prayers from the time I found out of your condition. You have touched so many many lives for good and your name will be held in high regard by those you have touched. Mine is one of those lives that has been so deeply touched.

I think back to our first encounter as members of the Ricks College Choir. The fun of singing bass with you and Gary; the practices, the performances, especially the "Messiah". As I recall, we sang in stake conferences and for a session of general conference.

Then there were the various Wood Badge courses that we served together. The most memorable one was when I served as course director and you as my backup director. I grew so close to you and treasured your counsel and advise as we prepared our staff for that course. It

was a joy to receive inspiration as who to call as members of that staff. My first call was at your house when I asked and you accepted the assignment as my backup course director. From there to Camp Williams for Directors Conference and then the call of each staff member. We had our first meeting in early December at the Blackfoot office to give out the new Varsity Scout Woodbadge Training Manuel. We were one of the pilot courses for the new Varsity Woodbadge. I will forever treasure the kindness and care you and Richard Snow showed me at our next staff development meeting. I was less than a month from open heart surgery. You and Richard placed a leather recliner in the meeting room so that I would be able to endure the one and a half days we met. I could not have

made the training without your acts of kindness. Do you remember that when the course started that every one of our staff was still intact? I had never served on another course that had all of the original staff members from start to finish. I credit a lot of this to you and Richard and the Christ-like kindness shown at that first meeting.

It was so very good to have visited with you in the temple three Fridays ago when you were attending an evening session. That visit will stay with me for the remainder of my life. When I think of you I think of a scripture: "Yea, verily, verily I say unto you, if all men had been, and were, and ever would be, like unto (Stephan Larsen), behold, the very powers of hell would have been shaken forever; yea the devil would never have power over the hearts of the children of men". This best sums of my feelings for your.

God bless you and your beloved Sue and your children. May His "tender mercies" be with you and yours now and forever.

Love, your brother,

Dave Fullmer

Dear Susan,

Stephen was a great guy. We will miss him. We were so shocked to hear of his death. You two have always been such an exemplary couple! He accomplished a lot of good in his life. He was a great example to all of us. Our sincerest sympathies to you and your children.

Love, Paul and Nancy Coltrin

To whom it may concern,

It was brought to my attention that a request had been made to share any personal experiences with Stephen Larsen. I've had the privilege to associate with him through many Stake, scouting, and seminary activities, but my first meeting with him really stands out in my mind.

I first met Stephen while playing in Linnea Hammond's community orchestra while in the 7th grade; I sat next to him in the trumpet section. He immediately introduced himself and made me feel very comfortable and welcome. I soon discovered that this kind man next to me was just as jovial, and often just as mischievous, as any of my similarly-aged peers. He would often engage in good-natured mockery of the orchestra members; never in a cruel or hurtful way, just enough to keep Bradley Stokes and I in constant fits of laughter. I was immediately impressed by how well-spoken and intelligent Stephen was. He had just the right thing to say in any situation. I loved to listen to him banter with the other members of the orchestra. His humorous

quips often stole the attention of the orchestra from Linnea, but she was usually stifling a laugh and smile herself. I'll also never forge this "Yellow Celophane Bikini" song. Hopefully he has shared it with you at some point as well.

Despite his confident presence, and my inferior age, he always treated me as a genuine friend. I'll always be grateful for meeting him at that impressionable young age. I can honestly say that he was one of my most influential role models. His example in orchestra and stake

conference had a huge impact on my life. I will miss him, but I know that he is providing the same guidance and friendship for others now.

Thank you for your time,

Dane Paul Christiansen

Lela and I are so shocked by this terrible turn of events. Just last Thursday I knew Steve was not feeling well and encouraged him to go home early, but we know his dedication to his scouting responsibilities and he toughed it out for most of the day. I was so shocked to hear that he was in the hospital and later hearing the leukemia diagnosis really knocked the wind out of my sails. We have had the special blessing of being associated with Steve, Sue and their family for many years. Our trails have crossed many times: Church assignments, community and school activities, as a special friend and neighbor. It has been a special blessing to live in the same community and have our families co-mingled in so many special activities. I've always marveled at his ability to remember poetry, essays, inspiration thoughts and share them so beautifully.

The opportunities I've had to be associated with Steve in one of his first loves "scouting" are at the top of my list of cherished memories. Working at the Blackfoot office together, being on camp staff, Wood badge and Cedar badge, side by side in the Blackfoot district activities and operations, University of scouting, just to mention a few. I consider Steve one of my strongest "scouting mentors" and love him like a brother. Every once in awhile someone comes into your life that definitely makes you a better person. Steve has in many cases been "the wind beneath my wings" as he has supported and encouraged me through "troubled waters". Lela and I hope that Steve, Sue and their family can in some small way know how special they are to us and how much we love and appreciate them. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time. I appreciate that someone has mentioned miracles. If anyone deserves one, Steve does and I know a lot of prayers are being said in his behalf.

Ben & Lela Hansen

We were very sorry to hear about Steve and wanted you to know how sorry we are. You were both so kind to us when Leon passed away and

we really appreciated it. You came to our home and made a very lasting impression on us that we will never forget your kindness. If there is anything we can do to help, please do not hesitate to call.

Eric and Desiree Hale

Dear Susan:

Elaine and I send our love and empathy at this most difficult time. Our great desire is to be at the services for your family, but as you might know we are serving a mission in Ohio at the Historic Kirtland Sites. Dennis sent us a notice of Stephen's passing and also the obituary in the

newspaper. Needless to say we were shocked and grieved at the news. Our comfort was to learn that he did not have to suffer for an extended period of time and the Lord manifested his love by calling him to a new field of labor. We know that this does not bring a great deal of comfort to you as you will long for your eternal companion, but we just need to express our deep feelings of love for you and Stephen as you have always been a beacon of light for us to try and follow. We pray for Heavenly Fathers tender mercies upon you and your family.

Love

Elder and Sister Max Leavitt

To Steve Larsen's Family,

(These first comments are from Elder Karl Klingler who is serving in the Malaga Spain Mission and is currently in the Canary Islands. Karl was the 2007 Cedar Badge Chairman.)

Today's e-mail was very shocking to hear the news about Steve. As I read what happened to Steve I was in tears. I pray something I say here will touch and bring comfort to Steve's family. Sorry, I only have a short time here, in a commercial setting, to read the e-mail from my family and provide some response about Steve and to his family.

To me, Steve was an ideal role model. He has been a true hero, an inspiration, and a guide to me. I had many opportunities to work with Steve personally, especially my last year, when I had the privilege to serve as the 2007 Cedar Badge (CB) Chairman. As we were planning the CB 40th Anniversary and all the changes we wanted to do, I remember feeling overwhelmed, scared, and unsure. Then God sent angels to help me, namely Steve Larsen and Kirk Kirkham. Steve Larsen helped me, encouraged me, and gave me the comfort and strength that I needed. I had the opportunity to talk to Steve, almost everyday, in planning meetings and making decision and arrangements for the CB 40th anniversary. Every time he was patient with me. As I think about it many times when I had a question he would ask me what I thought, then in the wisdom that he had,

he would let ME learn, think, progress, and grow. I know there were many times when he had a better answer, but Steve was never there to run the show. He let me learn and progress. This reminds me a lot of our Heavenly Father.

As I think of the many memories I have with Steve I stand in honor. His faithfulness, infinite wisdom, patience, and love. He is someone that as I was around him I felt like I needed to be a better example, person, and friend. Steve and I had many personal talks, for which I am forever grateful. FOREVER!!! Steve and I shed tears of frustration and joy together, we planned together and we served together. I am forever changed by this giant of a man in example of word and deed. I am reminded of the scripture in Enos 1:27, when Enos speaks his last words. That soon he will go to the rest of his Redeemer and there is a place prepared for him in the mansions of the Father. I am sure that Steve could have said this as well. How grateful I am to have known him, learned from him, and served with him. Steve, you have changed my life, you have made me a better person. Thank you, I am eternally indebted. Steve has successfully chartered his course in mortality and it is now up to me and each one of us to follow his example. I love you Steve and may you have peace and continue your great service on that side of the veil. May God be with you till we meet again. How great will be that reunion. I express my heartfelt gratitude love and sympathy to Steve's family. Thank you for sharing your dad, husband, and grandfather with me. He has changed and blessed my life, as he has yours. Steve, I love you. Goodbye until we meet again.

Your brother in the gospel and scouting,

Elder Karl Klingler

(These comments are from Kelly Klingler, who recently returned from the Ecuador Guayaquil South Mission and who was the 2005 Cedar Badge Chairman.)

The Cedar Badge NYLT program has effected my life in ways that I can neither fully express, nor recognize! From the time I was 12 each summer I was blessed with the opportunity to attend this amazing program and be blessed and taught by its teachings. Soon a couple years became five years and I was teaching others these great skills and still learning many life skills that I still use today and will use throughout my life. And finally, a few additional years later I was asked to be Chairman for the 2005 Cedar Badge Course. Up to this point I never really understood what all it took to prepare for a weeklong Cedar Badge experience. I never knew of the hours of selfless service that were needed to prepare. Though Cedar Badge is youth ran, it really is held together at its seams by the adults that are backing the youth. Without this needed guidance and help this program could never have blessed the lives of so many youth!

As I came to the realization of this great task that was ahead of me, there were several important leaders who helped guide me and showed me the way to selfless leadership. One of the greatest of these was Steve Larsen. Steve always had a smile and a willingness to help with whatever the task at hand was. Steve never sought recognition; he was a perfect example to me of a selfless leader! 2005 was the first year that Steve had come to work with the program and I remember the great excitement many others and I had as we got to know Steve and realize the depth of his knowledge and ability to help us! As he joined the Cedar Badge force that year he brought new hope and ideas into the program and of course that big smile.

Steve's selfless loving example was an amazing blessing to me! Through his Cedar Badge service he blessed the lives of thousands of young men through out this valley and now across the world as many of us have taken these skills and applied them in our missionary service. Steve has personally blessed my life in numberless ways, for which I will be forever grateful! Thank you Steve!! Thank you to his family for sharing him with so many others and me!

Sure love you Steve,

Kelly Klingler

(The following comments are from the balance of the Klingler family.)

I still remember the day when Kirk Kirkham call so excited that he could hardly contain himself. It was the day that he learned that Steve Larsen would be the next Professional Scouter for CB. I had not had at that point the opportunity to get to know Steve prior to his assignment to work with us in Cedar Badge, but I quickly came to understand why Kirk was so excited. Steve has been a great blessing to so many people and so many youth in Southeastern Idaho.

One of the concepts we try to teach at CB is the difference between the world's view of leadership and the concept of "servant leadership." Servant leadership is the kind a leader that Jesus Christ was and is. Dr. Steve R. Covey defines servant leadership as having the "right combination of high standards, strong values, and consistent discipline with unconditional love, deep empathy, and a lot of fun." Servant leaders are servants who are always looking for opportunities to serve others, help out, remove barriers, build and uplift, and do what ever is needed to help others and good causes be successful.

Steve was a model servant leader. He was always quietly working out of the spot light, taking care of issues and challenges, building and uplifting people, doing whatever needed to be done to make CB, and many other things, successful. What a great leader, what a great man!

In many conversations with Steve he talked about retiring and starting to serve missions. Well now he is, just to a different plan. I hope when it is

my turn to pass on that I can be as prepared to leave mortality as Steve was. Thanks for sharing him with us and allowing him to perform the great work he has done here. What a great responsibility Steve's family has to continue his great legacy.

Sincerely,

Ron Klingler

Steve, a genuine, wonderful man! Not afraid to jump right in and work hard. Freezing water in a dunking booth, on a not so hot summer day, didn't stop him from taking several turns, to the delight of all who watched. Up early to bike up the trail at camp. The sound of his clear bugling notes as we watched the flag raised and lowered. His kind smile and ready hello as he called each of us by name. His willingness and patience as he helped train and teach my sons and daughter to be and give their best. His proud smile, as each of "his" scouts was successful. How do you thank someone who has blessed our lives and the lives of my children forever? Wish we could give him a big hug and tell him thanks for being there for us. Thanks to his family for sharing your great dad and husband with all of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Love,

Nita Klingler

Dear Larsen Family,

Steve was and is such a great man. I always enjoyed his big smile, his can do attitude, the way he made me feel comfortable around all the CB guys, and the way he always built me up and encouraged me. Being the girl in the Klingler Family after 20 years of Klingler boys in CB, he would always take a special interest in me and always make me feel important. When I would get letters on the hill, he would not let them be sent out to me. He wanted me to come and get them so he could check on me and make sure everything was okay. Even though I had my brothers and parents there, he was like another father to me. He always brightened my day and would give me a big hug. He's definitely become one of my hero's and I'll always remember his great example.

Love,

Kailani Klingler

Susan,

I am so sorry to hear about Steve's sudden illness and death. I have always considered him to be in a small group of "best fiends" growing up.

I wish all of Heaven's choicest blessings for you now and in the future.
An old "best friend",

Dan Benson

Dear Sue, My heart just broke for you when I heard about Steve. I just remember this tall kind handsome man that was so happy we had brought his sweetheart home to him. Please know my love and prayers are with you and your family.

Love, Mary Peterson

Hi dear Susan - I was broken hearted when I heard about Steve's passing. More guilt as I have been in Goshen for several years and about 6 months ago decided I had better look you up and did not do it.

I was with a good friend last night getting some food storage and as we were driving along she told me about a 93 year old man that I go visiting to their home to visit with his wife Gwen Reid - I don't know if you know about the Reid Valley here. anyway had just seen him a week ago and they found him in the bathroom sunday and he had passed away. Then my friend starting telling me of another passing a Steve Larsen and I said his wife is Susan and they had 11 children and I have been going to try to get together with her - I am so sorry to hear about his passing and so quickly. I wanted to come to the funeral today but I work at Sunrise Elementary part time and it was to late to get a sub for my classes. This school is were the high school was that burned down across the street from were I lived before we moved to New Jersey.

I would love to see you - let me know when a good time would be and know that my prayers are with you and I will put your familys name in the temple on friday - I go every friday with my best friend and my sisters sometimes meet us there - one lives in Ucon and the other in Rexburg.

Prayers and thoughts of love and thankfulness for the knowledge of the great plan of salvation that we have to bring us comfort - God loves us as does our brother Jesus Christ and I know he will bring you peace!!

Love ya - Sue Evans (Susan Hansen when we knew each other - boy have I remembered some fun times we had) phone 357-0530 -)

Touch base when you can!!! May God give you enough always!!!!

To The Stephen Larsen Family,

Steve was a great person and an inspiration to all those around him. He helped others and was a source of strength for many. He was a positive person. Even when he was frustrated he put on a smile and went about his work. This last fair season I really got to see this and was impressed

to see how well he endured this challenge. I knew he was frustrated but most would not have ever known.

One of the things I will remember the most was his encouragement of me and my family. It started a long time ago when Bill was just a youth. He will always remember how involved in Scouting Steve was. He remembers all the support he gave and how much it helped him to get to where he is now. Next, it is how he encouraged my oldest son, Drew. He encouraged him to go to Cedar Badge over 4 years ago. Drew was very nervous to go but really wanted to go. Steve told him he would love it and that he really needed to go. He was right. He has gone three times now and has loved every minute of it. He always looked forward to seeing Steve there. He also encouraged him in his OA duties and every aspect of Scouts. Drew feels privileged to have gotten to know such a great man that has left a strong impression in his heart. Even my son Brayden loved seeing Steve in action. In his two years at Cedar Badge he says he has learned a lot and it was thanks to him looking up to Steve.

Makaylynn loved to pick on Steve and Steve loved to bug her back. He always made her smile.

He helped me find my way in Scouting. I had been involved for a few years both on round table staff and in my unit, but just not really into it. But Steve insisted I go to Akela's Trail. I said no. Needless to say, thanks to him I had no choice and I went. I loved it and told him such. I am grateful that he helped me to go and for the fact that he knew what I needed. I have continued my training and am loving the Scouting program. That is all thanks to Steve.

The attached picture is from the family camp Cedar Badge this past summer. I was supposed to send it before, but forgot. I went to the waterfront when I had a break from woodbadge to check on my boys at Cedar Badge. I was taking a couple of pictures of my boys and Steve told me to take this picture of him and e-mail it to him so he could show it to Sue. He was having as much fun as the youth. He fit right in. I think that is part of why the boys all loved him so much.

He is going to be greatly missed. But he has left a very strong legacy. His family is strong and that comes from how well Steve and Sue raised them. They will continue to do him proud and that is the greatest reward for any parent. Those of us in the community can honor him by supporting his family and by keeping Scouts strong in our community.

He was supportive of us in our good times and in our sad times. He cried with us and he laughed with us. He was a great spiritual influence as well. The Spirit radiated from him at all times.

Thank you for sharing such a great man with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you

Love the Andersons

> Bill, Cyntia, Drew, Brayden, and Makaylynn

Dear Larsen Family,

I was very surprised to learn of Stephen's death today. I have always admired Stephen! He was one of my heroes. He was my Scout leader, my Bishop, my employer, and my friend. Allow me to share some of my memories of Stephen.

I remember Stephen taking us rowdy Scouts on a campout to Green Canyon Hot Springs. We had a great time as we always did with him. I remember he was always inviting us to punch him in the stomach as hard as we wanted. He would tighten up his stomach muscles and we would wind up and try to hurt him, but we never were successful.

Bishop Larsen knew that I was taking piano lessons and encouraged me to play for Priesthood meeting. He finally talked me into playing one Sunday, and I found that I really could do it. I kept taking piano lessons and have played in many Priesthood meetings since.

When I was 14 years old, I worked for Stephen in the potato harvest. Apparently, I was a good enough worker that he asked me to work for him the following summer. I learned a lot of things that summer in 1976, including how to move pipe (hand lines and wheel lines), how to

drive a John Deere tractor with a hand clutch, how to ride a three wheeler, how to pull tractors out of the mud, how not to run over any risers on the main line (Max was showing me how to mow the main line without running over any risers when he ran right over the top of

one), how to pull weeds out of the seed grain, how to speak a little bit of Spanish, and how to haul and stack hay. I enjoyed those days working with Stephen, Max, and the other hired hands. I was glad that Stephen had patience enough to let me work on the farm.

I have always appreciated the kind, big smile, and warm greeting that Stephen always gave me. He and Susan have been a great positive influence in my life. My heart felt condolences go to each of you in this difficult time. May the Lord pour out his comforting spirit upon you.

Alan Christiansen

Hello Larsen Family,

I am so very sorry to hear of your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Your family has always been an example to me and I have fond memories of your family. You are an inspiration to me. May you find comfort in the days ahead.

My God bless you!

Kandace (Gamble) Kepler

Dear Sister Larsen and family;

I just wanted to express my sincere sympathies. Having lost my husband this past year I can understand some of the emotions and feelings that you are dealing with. I first remember meeting both of you when RaMon and I were serving as Stake missionaries and President Larsen would come and speak at the missionary meetings. I was always impressed by his spiritual strength and his friendliness. It was nice to renew our friendship at David's Christmas open house. I enjoyed talking with you. Whenever I would see Steve after that he would always make it a point to come up to me, put his arm around me and say hello and ask me how I was doing. He always made me feel so special, and I felt better afterwards. I will miss not seeing him anymore.

May Heavenly Father continue to bless and comfort you at this time.

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Christy F. Widdison

I was terribly saddened to learn of Steve's illness and recent passing. I got to know Steve through our association with the BSA (wood bade, council meetings, etc) We also enjoyed a special bond as mediocre, over-the hill-trumpet players. Steve radiated goodness and a Christlike interest in others. He will be deeply missed. With love and best wishes to Susan and others of the family,

Tracy Farnsworth

Dear Larsen Family--We wish we could say some magic words to take the hurt away. Larry's health is not doing very well so we won't see you but know that our thoughts, love and prayers are for you and your special family. May the Lord bless, comfort and sustain you. May your thoughts and feelings turn to fond memories of the past and know of the assurance of a beautiful reunion with loved ones to come.

Our love to you, Larry and Marilyn Clement

Dear Sue and Steve,

This is just a short note to express to you my thanks for being my friends. You have taught me so much and helped me through some of the toughest times of my life. You were my friends no matter what. You encouraged me and helped me with my children and I appreciate that and

so do they. Melanie, Brandon, Melissa, Derek, and Brittany have all expressed to me just yesterday how much they have appreciated your love and example to them. I also was grateful that you were still friends with Kent. You still loved him no matter what, and that meant a lot to me. You are great people and have a wonderful family as a result of your love and teaching.

May the lord bless you both for your service to me and others.

Love to you both,

Sue and Kelle Johnson

We have always thought the Steve and Susan Larsen family was an "Ideal LDS Family." Our association with you goes back many years. I (Jane) grew up in Moreland, so of course knew Steve's family. His father served as our Stake President and his mother was always a shining example of womanhood. I always liked that she was so musical! That musical ability certainly passed onto your family. Many of our memories of your family involve music. It seems that Steve and Sue were always in the Stake Choirs, and so were Rick and I. How we enjoyed rehearsing and performing songs from the Messiah together.

Steve was also in the Community Orchestra, as was Rick. The orchestras Linnea lead for the musicals at the High School were always an adventure and also a lot of fun. I always admired Steve for playing in the orchestra when I thought he'd probably enjoy just watching Sara Kay more. A few years ago, Sue was in charge of organizing a Pioneer Band for our Stake Trek, and once again, Rick, Steve, and I played in it together. Musical memories!

We appreciated Steve's service as a counselor in our Stake Presidency. We also learned a lot from you about how to do missionary work in the ward when we became ward missionaries. I remember having a conversation with Sue shortly after we had been sustained and she told me that one reason they kept growing a garden was so they could take produce from it to those they visited. We have always remembered that and used it as we go visit less-actives in our ward. It is easier to get in when you're bringing a goodie of some kind.

Steve is a great Scouter! His influence both as a leader and as a professional has certainly spread over the Council. Steve was always so friendly and courteous when he came into Riverside school to bring flyers for the scouting sign-ups, or to talk to the After-School Program about scouting. He epitomizes the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan to a tee! Since Rick and Steve are both Woodbadgers, they have a special bond. "He used to be an Eagle, and a good old Eagle, too....."

In the most recent years, we have admired your constant and active support of SaraKay, your special, sweet gift of a daughter who came just a few years after the others! We have so enjoyed watching her in the musicals and Jr. Miss, Chambers, and recitals. We can only imagine your pride and love for her and all your children. You are so blessed to have such obedient, strong, successful children who will continue to bring much joy, love and support to you now and in the eternities.

Go forward with faith knowing that families can be together forever!

Love,

Rick and Jane Tew

Dear Steve and family,

Steve Larsen is a giant in my life. I have always loved being around him. It was my privilege to visit him a last Monday in the ICU unit at the hospital. Of all the people in the world I was lucky enough to learn once more from him, even if it was from a hospital bed. Even in Steve's last hours he was concerned about the people around him. He wanted to be the best and wanted the best for everyone else. While I visited with him in the hospital, he was more concerned about my wife and children than himself. He gave me a big ole hug and wanted to know what he could do for me.

If we could all just touch one person like Steve has touched all people.

Scott Kirkham

Jill has shared with me your email; I am so grateful to hear your father is able to rest more comfortably. I have not wanted to disturb your precious family time with phone

calls or a visit. I do hope your mother was able to obtain her medication without problems. Please don't hesitate to call me at 681-9554 if there is any way I may assist.

After discussing your father's care with Dr. Francisco, it is clear to me that your father and your family have made the correct decision in obtaining hospice care and not attempting chemotherapy. He has been under the care of the finest intensive care physicians and oncologist in the region. The decisions made have given him the most peace and time with family that would be possible. It is clear that any other

choices would have been harmful and of no benefit. I only mention this as I want your family to know their spiritual impressions of what care to seek were absolutely correct; there is no doubt that you have followed the right path. Our love, prayers, and thoughts are with you constantly; your family is a shining beacon for us all,

andy

A TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN LARSEN

JANUARY 30, 2009

You would think that expressing love to a wonderful friend and hero would be easy, but I find this opportunity more difficult than I thought it would be. My thoughts these past few days have walked the roads and trails at Island Park Scout Camp and have

paused in the platform tents, cabins, office, and lodge. I recall helping Stephen break camp at the end of a Wood Badge course, of talking into the wee hours of the night during Wood Badge or while at Summer Camp. We would talk of Scouting's values and priesthood purposes and family. I can still hear his Eagle voice sign clearly and

vibrantly the songs of Zion and of Scouting, even creating his own lyrics. It doesn't take long to hear his new words and the putting together a lengthy sentence with words that needed a dictionary to help decipher the meaning.

A hymn comes to mind that seems to speak my thoughts:

Each life that touches ours for good
Reflects thine own great mercy, Lord;
Thou sendest blessings from above
Thru words and deeds of those who love.
What greater give dost thou bestow,
What greater goodness can we know
Than Christ-like friends, whose gentle ways
Strengthen our faith, enrich our days.
When such a friend from us departs,
We hold forever in our hearts
A sweet and hallowed memory,
Bringing us nearer, Lord, to thee.
For worthy friends whose lives proclaim
Devotion to the Savior's name,
Who bless our days with peace and love,
We praise thy goodness, Lord above.
Hymn #293

Thank you, Stephen, for giving me the opportunity to learn to carve in my spare time while working in the Commissary at Island Park Scout Camp. Thank you for your leadership and example at Cedar Badge. Thank you for the concern and care for me during our time at the 1997 National Boy Scout Jamboree. Thank you for your beautiful voice that could make any Scout song beautiful and for the hymns sung from Chapel Hill, in the camps, and at Gilwell Field at Island Park.

Thank you for the laughter while working together during Wood Badge.

Thank you for the righteous example of family and priesthood leadership. I knew I could call on you and be blessed with a worthy priesthood holder.

Stephen L. Baldwin

Formerly of Rexburg, Idaho

Grand Teton Council – Wood Badge, Cedar Badge, Targhee District, local units

Now of Orem, Utah serving a mission with wife, Patricia (we also serve as Ordinance Workers at the Mt. Timpanogos Temple).

Dear Steve and Susan,

It is an unexpected shock to hear about your condition. Kerry and I are praying for peace to come to your family. We know it will. Steve thanks for your many years of excellent service in Scouting. Also thanks for raising such a wonderful family. You have all been such a credit to this community for many years. It seems to be a character trait of Larsens. We know you have many loved ones anxious to help through this difficult time. Both here and on the other side. We love you all.

Mike and Kerry Palmer

Dear President Larsen,

Michael and I would just like you to know how sorry we are for what you are going through. When I was a younger girl, growing up in your ward, I always admired your family so much. Each of your children are such a positive reflection on you and Sue. Whenever one of the Reader kids would get into trouble, my mom would say, "I know that Steve and Sue Larsen's kids wouldn't do this!" And, she was right. I know that when my mom had to work and Sue watched my little brothers, she was so comforted that they would be in your home. I want you to know that your influence and example have impacted the lives of so many and will continue to do so through the lives of your sweet wife and your children.

I loved teaching SaraKay. She is such a talented, awesome young lady, and I know you are proud of her. Michael lost his father when he was only a few years older than she is. While the situation was much different, the shock and devastation were much the same. The loss is still felt today, but the gospel has carried us through and it will do the same for your family. You are probably so sad to leave your family, but who else should go to prepare their home in heaven and set the example? You've always done this for them in the past and time will pass quickly for you as you prepare for them to be with you again.

I just wanted to thank you for leading an exemplary life and sharing your talents and family with our community.

Sincerely,

Arynne Reader Hoge

Steve, I just want you to know how much Kirk and I love you and your family! You and Sue are our role models! You have been so kind to us since we moved to Idaho. We all have people in our lives that make us more than we really are. They lift, build, and bring out the best in us. You are one of those people! You are a spiritual GIANT! I will never forget fighting yard fires with you, sitting in your office for Temple Recommend interviews, listening to you teach Gospel Doctrine classes, and all the mentoring you have done for me in scouting! You have been a strong influence in the lives of my family!

We love you! Ashli, who is still in California sends her love, as does Natalia who is in Shelley. Kenzie, aka, Bubba and Logan both are praying for you and your family! Your influence has spread far and wide and will never stop. You are the type of person that lives as Christ lived..setting the example for all of us to follow and touching many lives along the way! Your memory will never fade...your light will shine on thru your wife, your children, and all those whom you have come in contact with. No one can help but be a better person for having known you. So walk on Steve...there are more lives for you to touch...only on the other side now. Your spirit is strong and you will always have a giant heart full of love for everyone around you. We will miss you, but we know that you are only going ahead of us to help prepare the way for us to follow...as did our Savior.

If your family has time, have them go to this web page and listen to the free download of "You Make Me More" by Heartbound.

http://www.heartboundmusic.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=7&Itemid=75

You truly have made each of us more than we thought we could ever be!

You have given us hope and inspiration! We love you, Steve! Go in peace!

Love from the Reynolds Family

Kirk, Sandi, Ashli, Natalia, McKenzie, and Logan

Dear Larsen family;

From the time I was a little girl, and all growing up, the Larsen family has been synonymous with righteousness and faith, always an example of how to live in love, humility and how to radiate the Light of Christ. Stephen, I will forever have great respect for you. I love to feel the warmth of your smile, handshake, and friendship. You always make me smile. Your quiet strength, leadership and example have had a profound effect on my life and our whole community. The way you stand for truth and righteousness helps others to stand strong beside you. Your family's example of world(S)

wide eternal family unity and faith will continue as a legacy for generations. Sue, I have admired your refined beauty, intelligence, talents, and dedication to the Lord for as long as I have known you. I remember asking you once how you achieved such spiritual strength, knowledge and wisdom. Your answer has dramatically affected my life. You looked me in the eye and said "I've worked (emphasize work) hard at it, studied, prayed and then studied some more". I have been applying those same principles in my life and what a wonderful difference it has made J. THANK YOU BOTH!!!

I love the memories of coming to your home with Dwight home teaching, and being taught by you, kneeling around your coffee table in prayer, feeling the spirit in you home, seeing your testimonies radiate in all you are and do. You are an amazing family!!!

May God bless you in this trial...

All my Love and respect, Debra Gardner

My two cents:

I look to years past with fond memories. Having the privilege to come into your home on many occasions, as a home teacher, meeting with the stake young men's organization and just as a friend. Always being greeted with a smile and friendship. It has been a privilege to get to know your children and being able to call them friends as well. Time spent serving with Steve in stake callings, going to scout camp and being woke up by some nut blowing his horn brings back fond memories.

Your family and gospel strength has always been an example that I wanted to follow with my own family. I enjoy your families friendship and look forward to more in the years to come. It is harder to rub shoulders now that we are in a different ward but past shoulder rubs don't wear off. I (we) pray for you and your family and know that great things await the Larsen family. I am grateful for what you have given me. Thank you, Dwight Gardner

The memory I have of Steve isn't so much about him personally, although I do remember him chasing us off his ditch bank when we were small, it is of his family and how they were raised.

I believe I was in between Becky and John in school, they were both great people and one didn't have to know them well to know that they came from a good, solid family with strong love and commitment for each other.

I am sorry to hear about the circumstances that you find yourselves in right now, my thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jeremy D. Christiansen

Dear Steve, Sue and Family,

Words cannot express the loss we feel at the passing of Steve. I didn't even realize what a part of our lives he was until he was gone. Even though we're not technically blood related, your family has played such an integral part in our lives and we have had so many opportunities to rub shoulders over the years that we consider you family. Steve and Sue, you have always been pillars of the community. Our admiration of your family and their accomplishments goes very deep. In fact I've used your example in several of the talks I've given over the years of what a successful family should be. As I read the tributes that others have written, I can see that they too have benefited greatly from your example. I truly do believe that Steve will live on in the lives of his wife and children. What better legacy could one ask for?

Thanks Sue, for setting Doug and I up on a blind date so many years ago. I have no idea where we'd be today if it weren't for you, but I know that we wouldn't be as happy as we are now. We owe you everything!

Thanks to both of you for rearing your wonderful son, Steve, who has been such a tremendous blessing in Bonnie's life. We love him so much - she could not have found a more outstanding young man to marry. He is a blessing in all of our lives.

We will continue to pray for you in the coming weeks and months. The road will not be easy, but there are so many of us who love you and want to support you. We know the Lord will bless you.

Love, Shannon and Doug Williams

Steve and Sue,

Your daughter Stephanie was kind enough to share your personal email address with me. We love each of you and know that the Lord loves you.

Dear Stephen (Steve), Susan and family,

Dantzelle and I have received an email late last night sharing the news about your serious health issues. We want you to know that we love you and have always admired you and your family.

You are in our prayers and we know Heavenly Father is mindful of you, knows you and loves you.

I can't help but be very grateful for the opportunity that I had (many years ago) to get to know you during your service as District Chairman for the Blackfoot District. Then to have the privilege to hire you as our Endowment Director was a really joyful day. We have fond memories of attending the Endowment session at Philmont Training Center together with our families. We still remember Sarah Kay and McKay playing together as they enjoyed the family programs offered by Philmont.

We certainly reflect on Woodbadge, summer camps, BSA conferences, good visits - many wonderful memories.

Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers and fast this coming Sunday. May God bless you and your family in everyway.

Your scouting friends and associates,

Brad and Dantzelle Allen

Dear Shannon,

I have a couple of tributes listed below and I handed out your address to our ward members. I know some of them will send cards instead. Thank you for giving us this opportunity and for all of your efforts. They are an awesome family and we love them tons! Jeannett

Dear Larsen Family,

I would like to send my love and concern to Sue and her family. I have always felt close to the family. I had the privilege of teaching Steve in his senior year of high school. He was an excellent student and was always an example of what one should be. He was a devout member of the church and a plus to the community. Gary C. Elison

To the Steve Larsen Family:

We are saddened to hear of Steve's illness and subsequent passing. We always revered him as an obedient servant of God and a good friend. Steve would, every time we met, come and shake my hand and say how pleased he was to do so. This meant a lot to me. Please know that we care and love all of you. Doug Phillips

We meet many heroes along life's path, but just know that you are at the top of our list. I have so much admiration for you, Sue. You have been an ensign to all mothers whose lives you have touched. Such the epitome of motherhood--the nurturing, caring, homemaker that you are. What a wonderful family you and Steve have raised! Steve has been a great example of an honorable priesthood leader and father!

His light of the gospel and his infectious smile will always be in our memories. We pray that your loneliness will be filled with the comfort that the second comforter gives. He will comfort you in ways that you have never felt so strongly before--His love will encircle you. We know that you know His ways and we rejoice for you--that your sorrow will be only in Steve's absence and not in regret for his new calling and mission. Keep on keepin' on--you are a beacon for us all! We love you always, Jeannette Phillips

Susan & family, We wanted you to know we are thinking of you and send our love. We are so sorry that you had to lose Steve so early in this life.

He had so much to leave behind...hold on to the little things...his scent, his touch, his laughter, his words of comfort...all those great memories.

SaraKay..I lost my Dad when I was pregnant with my second child. I felt so bad the day I gave birth because my Dad wan't there to see her or my other children that were born later. The day I had her my husband and Mom had just left my room and I was thinking of my Dad and missing him very much...and then I looked up and there he was standing in the door frame. He smiled at me and said, "You done good..you done real good." and then he was gone. That moment has comforted me through my life knowing that he is always there, seeing what is happening in my life.

Always know that your Dad is there with you as you live the rest of your life. He will be there for all those special moments! Please know our hearts ache for all of you and we hope you find a way to get through this lose.

Love, The Hutchisons

I've known Bro. Larsen all my life. I've always thought of him as one of the best examples I've ever had the privilege of knowing. As I've watched the Larsen family over the years I've noticed that all of the boys are gentlemen and all of them uphold their Priesthood obligations. This they learned from their Dad. With Bro. Larsen, you always knew he had a very strong testimony of the Gospel and that he'd do whatever it took to do what was right. He always did his callings willingly and cheerfully.

Bro. Larsen loved his family! You could tell that nothing was more important to him! He always treated Sis. Larsen with love and respect. I loved watching the two of them together! He always made time for his kids and supported them in school and Church activities.

I was in Choir with Mike and Paul and I don't remember a concert that he wasn't at!

Another thing that I always loved about Bro. Larsen was his sense of humor! I remember times at Ward choir that we'd be laughing so hard at something Bro. Larsen said that we could hardly sing! He had a very contagious smile and laugh!

I also loved Bro. Larsen's voice. Whether he was singing or just talking, there was something in his voice that always made me feel peaceful. I don't think I ever heard him raise his voice.

The whole Larsen family has had a big influence in my life. My heart goes out to you at this time!

With love,

Rochelle Gardner Nelson

We will miss Steve and are thankful that we have had the privilege to know him and bask in his warm and loving personality.

One of my favorite memories was of the time I (Sherry) was Blazer (New Scout) leader and Mike was my Patrol Leader. I had a really good group of boys to work with and enjoyed them very much. Steve volunteered to take the boys camping the Friday night of the Spring Camporee. The Camporee was for all Scouts in the area from age 11 and up.

I met them at Wadsworth Island the next morning for the day's competitions between all the patrols. I remember that it was raining lightly, but not very cold. Our boys did a great job and it seemed there was always at least one Scout who could do each station's activity pretty well. At the end of the Camporee our group of boys received an award for 2nd place overall, even though they were competing with older boys as well. I was just "tickled pink" by that announcement.

Love,

Sherry and Will Thomas

Dear Larsens,

I have shared this with some of you, but I remember the day Stephen was sustained as bishop. His father, President Larsen, stood at the pulpit in the stake center and said, "Would the members of the Moreland Second Ward please stand. You may accuse me of nepotism, but we feared God more than man. We present Stephen Allan Larsen to be your new bishop." I know he was a great bishop and blessed the lives of the people in his ward. I also remember someone telling me that a member of the ward had been in the hospital and that Bishop Larsen had spent the night there in the hospital with them. I remember as well Stephen mowing Baxter's lawn while they were on vacation, just because he was a good neighbor and wanted to help them. My life and Tami's have been blessed as we have spent time in the ward with Steve and Sue, have worked with them as missionaries, have heard their testimonies, and have felt their sweet spirits. I have always enjoyed listening to his comments in Sunday School and particularly in high priest's meetings. We will miss him very much, but we know that he will be working and blessing the lives of many on the other side of the veil. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of you.. Farrell and Tami Wray

Larsen Family,

My name is Steven Gudmundson and I worked with and knew your dad over the years through the service that he and I shared though Cedar Badge, Scouting and the saving of individual souls.

Throughout my life I have associated with and had personal friendships with many General Authorities, Apostles and even a Prophet and I have to tell you that a finer man then your dad I have never met!

He was and is the epitome of how someone should quietly go about serving, and loving his fellow man. How friends should look after and support friends. The world will be a poorer place without Steve in it.

However it's a comfort to me to know that he has so many son's, daughters and grandchildren to carry on in his place. To take up the battle for good and press forward in what he knew to be our Father in Heavens battle for the souls of His children.

Thank you for sharing your dad with me. My life will be a dimmer place without his mischievous smile to brighten my day (and wonder just what he was up to). His listening ear and sound advice. His unconditional friendship and willingness to go the extra mile no matter the personal cost to himself and his steady guiding hand. I am a better man for having had him as my friend.

However as he demonstrated repeatedly to me and as I am sure he has taught you, I will press forward in what was so important to he and our Father in Heaven... the betterment of not only myself, but my fellow man.

I will continue to pray that God will comfort your family and keep my friend, till we are all together again. Congratulations Steve for graduating from this life with honors and returning home to Father, head up and honor intact. I hope to follow in your footsteps.

Love

Steve

PS. "Little Steve", those are big shoes to fill, but that name has a great ring to it and I hope to meet and serve with you.

Dear Susan,

We were shocked and saddened to hear of Steve's death. Our son, Curtis called us (we are still in Rapid City, SD) yesterday to tell us the news. We will always remember Steve's kindness to us and his true friendship. He was truly a man of Valor!

President and Sister Cannon (AKA Joe and Jeanne Cannon)

Susan,

You may remember me. I am Pete Christiansen, son of DeVar and Shirley Christiansen. You taught me as an 11 year old Blazer and I remember how wonderful you were as my teacher. I was very sad to hear of your husbands sudden illness and death. I lost my mom to cancer when she was 64 and I thought that was way to early. I knew you and Steve from

my early years in the Moreland ward and have always remembered what great people you were. Please know that my thoughts and prayers go out to you and your children. May the knowledge of our Father in Heaven's plan bring peace and comfort to you at this very difficult time in your life.

With Sympathy,

Pete Christiansen

Dear Larsen Family

Steve was a great man who will be greatly missed, He would always come up and shake my hand and ask how I was when ever he saw me. I am sure he has touched more lives than any of us will ever know.

I would like to thank you for sharing him with us in scouting.

Yours in Scouting

Tom Barry

South Fork Advancement Chairman

Dear Steve,

I appreciate so much your life and example. Because of you my husband and older kids have had some of the best experiences of their lives through Cedar Badge. From your excellent talent of bugeling to your selfless acts of service you have become not only my husband's hero but our family's as well. Your name has and always will be spoken of with admiration and appreciation. May we all meet again in that better place.

Love and prayers to you and your family,

Lynda Sorensen

I honestly don't know what to say. I hadn't heard anything about Steve even being sick. Wow! Well it was good that he was surrounded by those that he loved. I'm sorry for the short email. Time is a precious thing here in the field. Tristen and I are serving together again and many days we awake and remember the cold mornings up on the hill and we talk and laugh about Cedar Badge and all the great memories. Steve was such a great inspiring man. I remember so well wonderful conversations that him and I had concerning scouting and just life in general. I think that he left a great legacy and a wonderful trail of memories. Please pass along Tristen and my condolences and our love.

Love,

Elders Bennett Briggs and Tristen King

Steve,

We hope that you are feeling better! We are so grateful for all of the time and effort that you have put into Cedar Badge. We pray for you everyday.

John and Philip Crepeau and Family

Dear Steve

I am so sorry to hear of your condition. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Please be strong. You are a great person and have touched many peoples lives including mine and Randy's.

You are in our every thought and prayer.

Love

Randy and Bonny Jennings

Jill & Kirk:

Our Venturing Committee nominated Steve Larsen several months ago to receive the Venturing Leadership Award at the next Council awards night.

I told Steve we were trying to get permission to award it to him, even though it is usually not given to professional staff. I got permission, and then took on the duty to contact him and fill out the form. I was going to call him this week. Now, I don't want to burden him, I just want to get the award and present it to him soon. He just lives a couple of miles from me.

The application asks for leadership positions and service related to Venturing. I know he is the professional advisor to Cedar Badge and the Kodiak Treks there, and he was the Advisor to the Council Venturing Committee before that.

If you know of any more details of his involvement with Venturing at Cedar Badge, could you let me know so I can put it on the application.

Never mind. I just talked to Mark Nelson, and we decided we don't need any more details. We all know Steve deserves this award.

Thanks for your work to compile encouraging tributes for Steve.

Steve and I attended the Boy Scout basic training and overnigher together back in the spring of 1992 in the Blackfoot District before he joined the Council staff. I still remember singing songs around the camp fire with him, Darvel Anderson and Dixie Chapman at my very first scouting training experience as an adult leader.

I remember thinking, "These are the kind of people I want to be around."

My dad was Steve's Explorer advisor when Steve was a young man and challenged him and the others to read the Book of Mormon. If so, dad promised he would give them a new leather bound Triple Combination for their missions. Steve read it and got the book. Sometimes when I was

discouraged about scouting, I would chat with Steve at the Blackfoot office. He would encourage me by telling me that story.

He said he thought it was interesting how my dad had encouraged him to achieve the goal and now he was encouraging me. He said scouting leaders have a life long

effect on the youth we serve and sometimes it comes around full circle.

Thank you for all you do to help young people grow to be enthusiastic, positive people like Steve.

DaLon Esplin

Jill and/or Randy,

Please send these thoughts which I have reduced to paper to whomever, so that they can be included in the Book to be given to the family. Sorry I'm so slow...been so busy. Please forgive me...hope it's not too late.

Thank You,

Senator Bair

Dear Sue and Family,

Please accept my deepest heart-felt sympathies to you and your family for the loss of your husband and father. Bishop Larsen lived great, taught well, and loved deeply.

I cannot remember a time in my life not knowing the Larsen family. Growing up on our farm in Taber, just a few fields away from the Larsen Farm was just part of our lives. Steve's Dad, Allen was our Stake President, neighbor, and good family friend, and Allen's family remains close to my heart to this day.

While a teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood, mine was the pleasure to home teach to Steve and Sue as they just moved into the home on the farm.

They had just had the twins about that time. Somewhere along the way, Steve was called as Bishop of Moreland 2nd ward, and was my Bishop as a priest, continuing until I married after serving a mission. I distinctly remember many mutual nights at Bishop and Sue's

home. Sue was such great fun, and always had tons of food for some sometimes less than respectful priests of Moreland 2nd. During those mission preparation years, Bishop Larsen spent countless hours counseling and preparing me to serve. For that, I will be forever grateful.

While attending Ricks College and newly married, Bishop Larsen called me to serve as the Priest's quorum assistant in Moreland 2nd. I have been a registered scout ever since that time. I have spend most of my service in the church and scouting in the priests quorum, for many years as an assistant, then some 7 years as Young Men's President.

Then the service to scouting involved serving as an ADC on the high counsel. Even then my HC assignment was over the young men. Later, my service as Bishop and Institutional Head of Moreland 2nd ward was influenced by the training given by Bishop Larsen all those years before.

Just before the legislative session started in January, I felt the urge to stop in at the Scout office to say hi to Bishop Larsen. We had a very lengthy visit about family, friends, and the legislature. Before I left, he had told me all about Cedar Badge, and had me committed and signed up to serve during the upcoming 3rd week. Oh,

how we were looking forward to once again serving together. Our Father in Heaven had other plans for Bishop and he will be missed deeply. One thing we can count on though, is that his reunion with his mother and father, both earthly and eternal, is a joyous one.

Further, one can rest assured that Bishop is engaged vigorously in the service of his Maker and his fellow man.

Every now and again, meet someone who has a profound effect on our lives...just when we are standing at a critical crossroad. I stood there once, as a young man, wondering which road I should travel, and Bishop Larsen was there to show me by example and precept. The road he directed me onto was one which is less traveled, yet one with which he was extremely familiar. That road, for Bishop Larsen, is one

filled with service to his fellow man and especially to youth. His unique craft and talent is one of taking a rough hewn rock of a boy, and sculpting that young man into a productive man and citizen, using the tools of love, wisdom, and example to shape and mold that boy.

Although we will miss Steve deeply, his legacy will long surpass any of us. The lives of his children, grandchildren, and the thousands of boys and girls who were touched by him will prove to testify of his greatness for generation after generation. His legacy of honesty, integrity, love, devotion and service will live on in perpetuity through the lives of others whom he influenced and uplifted.

It has been an honor to know Bishop Larsen, and look forward to the day when we can all serve our fellow men with him side by side.

With Love,

Steve Bair

Senator Steve Bair

District 28, Bingham County

I served as counciler to Steve when he was called as Bishop of the Morland second ward.

I soon learned that he guided his Ward under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

When he was called as Bishop, the Scouting program was at an all time low. There had been no advancements for a long time. He had been impressed to call a man as Scoutmaster, that made no bones about his dislike of camping out. However he accepted the call, and wasn't long until there were young men receiving their Eagle award. This has continued until the present time. Inspiration was shown in all other callings as well.

Though its hard for those left behind, I feel he has been called to a special calling on the other side of the veil to assist in the work going on there,

Gary L. Love

Dear Steve;

You are an incredible man. You are a rock (Brad said that you were the stabilizer in our Pocatello office before you moved out), You are one of the most funny, kind, gentle, talented and genuinely good men that I have the pleasure of knowing. Thank you for being you.

May peace attend you and your family throughout this trial you are going through.

With lots of love, prayers, and tears,

Virginia

Good morning Steve,

I realize you're not surrounded by Lord Bayden Powell's panoramic "scout camps" presently, but you are surrounded by it's rewards. My purpose in writing is not to dwell on the circumstances that have brought you to this point. Too many tears have dropped on so many reflections. The memories are eternal and the tears will assure that they remain so. If I could lay my bed before our Maker and you take yours up, I would gladly do so. Yes, I consider you a friend and would gladly extend that "greater love." Steve, I love you and thank you for returning ten-fold that same love.

My feeble mind and shrunken memory have been filled with reflections these past few days. Did you ever do anything questionable in your entire life? I do hope the interview at that "Pearly" entrance dwells more on the positive than the debilitating. If so, you had better take a soft chair...for it will be a lengthy exchange!! You have been so many, many things to me.

I hesitate to enumerate, yet I will always enjoy being guided by the examples etched in the stone of my conscience. When I choose wisely, I will credit your counsel and example. When I stray, I will depend on the

elastic of your patience to rebound me back on course. Heck, I had just started my book of

Stephen Larsen's "Quotes...better left Unquotable...!"

"With friends like you,...who needs enemies!" That's as far as I got!
Maybe it's better that it be a short book!

Speaking of quotes, someone already said better than I:

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches;" Proverbs 22:1

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

And the Lord God...made he a woman...

Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:18,22,24

"... if a man marry a wife by my word, which is my law, and by the new and everlasting covenant, and is sealed unto them by the Holy Spirit of promise,...in time and all eternity,... and shall be of full force when they are out of the world; to their exaltation and glory...a fullness and a continuation of the seeds forever and ever.

Then shall they be gods." Doctrine and Covenants 132:19-20

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man: so are children of the youth.

"Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them:" Psalms 127 3-5

"I have no greater joy, than to hear that my children walk in truth." III John 4

Steve, know of my love and respect for you, your wife, and your family.

Thank you for the years. Thank you for the example. You leave a challenge and a legacy for a proud, yet humble friend.

Nolan Furniss

Dear Steve:

I am writing to express to you my deep love and admiration for you and your sweet wife. It has been such a privilege and blessing my life to work with you and associate with you in so many ways. I hope you know what kind of impact you have had on my life since we first met. I will always remember the special week we spent together at Wood Badge in 98 when you were Course Director. That was a special time and I loved every

moment of that experience together. Just recently I was going through my Wood Badge pictures and saw the picture of you, Jeff Anderson and myself, when we served together on your course. That was a great time.

I have also enjoyed so much working with you over the years in various scouting events and activities. My service as Council President has been made more special because of being able to see you often and feel of your sweet spirit. I have been touched many times when I have been speaking and have looked at you and noticed tears in your eyes because the Spirit has touched you. I know you have lived very close to the Spirit and that has been a blessing to so many of us.

I know that you are leaving a legacy of love, of faith, of endurance, of patience and of charity for all who know you. Your example and influence will always be a part of us. May God bless you and your family with a knowledge of His deep and personal love for you. I pray for the Lord's blessing to be upon your family and know that they will be blessed because of your faithfulness. And I know that the Savior has a great work for you on the other side to prepare for the time of His second coming to this earth. May you always know of my deep respect and personal love for you!

David N. Hermansen

Chief Financial Officer

Varsity Contractors, Inc.

You need to get better for a great and new year for Cedar Badge.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Take care.

Merrill and Wes Fullmer

Dear Steve,

Please accept my sincere admiration and gratitude for my friendship and knowing of you.

My Daughter Heidi has always spoken so highly of you since meeting you at CB her first year.

Thank you touching my family's life.

Brett Judd, The Garden Counseling

Dear Steve and Susan,

When Natalie told me my heart just sank. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May our Heavenly Father be close by you to give you and your family peace.

Our Love and Prayers

Steve and Janice VanderKooi

(Postmaster of Moreland)

Lesley and I were shocked when we heard of Steve's illness and passing. We had such a good time with all of Nate's family on the October trip doing the Church history. It is hard to believe this has happened. I felt an easy bond with Steve right away on the trip. I know all the family must be so glad that Steve was there for part of the trip. Susan, I know you will be all right because of your faith. I can't imagine facing this without knowledge of the Gospel and of eternal families. Your great faith is the great strength of your life and all will be well. Our hearts ache for you at this time.

With love,

Ed and Lesley Jorden

Dear Steve,

Although we have not met in person, we have exchanged phone calls and e-mail messages this past year as you helped me with the North Caribou District's Tiger Ear assignment and more recently with the week 3 Cedar Badge course. Now I want to help you to receive blessings of comfort and health. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Our Heavenly Father loves you and I am praying that His blessings will be with you and your family.

Sincerely,

Bert Creasey

Steve,

I don't know you very well and you barely know me. But what I do know about you is that you have put so much of your time and energy into cedar badge and I want to thank you for that! I attended cedar badge as a participant two years ago, and it changed my life and has since become a very huge part of my life! I know that Cedar Badge is where it is today in part because of all the time you have put into it.

Thank you so much! You have not only affected my life for the better, but I am sure very many other lives as well!

Thank you for all you have done,

Chelsie Cook

Dear Steve;

I wanted to write and say that you have been a good a wonderful example to me in my life. You may not even remember who I am. But your acts of kindness, dedication, and hard work, have given me inspiration not only in Cedar Badge, but in my whole life. I think you're the best. Get feelin better.

You're friend,

Michael R. Clark

Dear (little) Steve,

It has been such a shock to hear of your father's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Steve is and will always be one of my favorite people. I've known him for more than 20 years through Scouting. I knew Steve first through my husband and his scouting experience, and was always very impressed with my husband's high opinion of Steve. Whenever I came in contact with Steve he always was so happy and had a smile on his face. He would always ask me how my husband and family were doing. Always more concerned for the welfare of others. I have been honored to serve with Steve in many capacities. Among my favorite memories are traveling to Course Directors Conference in Utah and most recently serving on Staff with him on the 2007 Akela's Trail course, he was always so helpful. I have had three sons serve on Cedar Badge Staff and they too have many fond memories of him. Steve is definitely on of the great ones. I will miss him.

Lori King

We've known the Larsen family in one capacity or another for quite some time. My first meeting with Steve was at a scout function, go figure:).

It was a brief meeting of introduction, mostly revolving around Mark, who I had met while serving a mission in the Colorado Denver Mission in the late 70's. I had admired Mark greatly and was quick to observe in Steve what I assume to be a family trait.

Steve was one of the most kind, gentle, and Christ like men I know.

There are a handful of men I always seek out when they are present; those who I know improve me the more time I can spend with them. Steve was high on my list of those I would spend time with if possible. I will miss his quiet confidence and welcoming smile. What a wonderful example for the world. Thanks!!!

Stephen K King

Other notes passed to family members

Mon, Jan 26, 2009 at 8:00 AM

Dear family,

As some of you now know, Dad is really sick. About Thursday, he came home sick with chills and fever. He went right to bed. The next morning, he wasn't any better. He was so exhausted and tired he stayed in bed. He had a fever off and on, but no other flu-like symptoms.

Saturday, he took a bite of food and then raced to the bathroom and started vomiting. Later, he and Mom had scheduled to go to Rexburg for a concert. It was storming outside and Dad didn't want Mom going by herself, so he drove with her to the Snow building for a concert. He was so weak; he could hardly get into the building. It was scary. They came home.

At some point in the night, Mom heard him moaning. He had fallen and was draped over the tub and didn't have the strength to get up. Mom helped him get back up and into bed. He pretty much stayed there, and didn't eat or drink or have an appetite.

When Mom got home Sunday at noon, he was the same. Dad told Mom he needed help. Mom got Dad into the insta-care in Blackfoot. At first, they thought he had had a heart attack....but they did an EKG, and his heart was fine. Then, they took his blood and realized he had a problem. What was normally at the 100 level was at the 600 level. The individual assisting with the blood work said she had never seen anyone with it at that level. They tried to get him stabilized. Eventually, the doctor said, "I can't treat you. This is very serious. We need to get you to Pocatello to the blood specialist."

Sunday afternoon/evening, the doctor in Pocatello determined that Dad probably does NOT have leukemia (although that hasn't been ruled out entirely). The doctors are very hopeful that they are close to a diagnosis.

In the meantime, he is stabilized, but will be in the ICU for 3-4 days. Those in ICU are not permitted to have their cell phones. If he gets well enough, he will call out. He is not out of the woods yet, but at least he is getting stabilized.

Mom's email is not working, so if you would like to talk to her, the best way is her cell phone (208-684-4076). If you will wait to call until this afternoon, that would be the best time since Mom is making preparations to go back to the hospital and it isn't safe to talk while driving.

I will send out daily updates to keep you posted.

Thank you for your love and prayers in Dad's behalf.

Mom thinks we've already witnessed a miracle with Dad being alive after his blood getting to the 600 mark.

1/27/09 - Tuesday morning,

Dear family,

We are very encouraged this morning. Dad's fever broke. He is responding positively to the new antibiotics they are using. His lungs are also clearing. We spoke with him on the phone, and he is sounding more energetic and healthy.

We still do not have the lab results back (we expect those at 3:00 today) but we are excited that he is making progress. Now, they can work on his sugar levels, which at last check were around 300.

We will keep you posted.

Little Steve

1/27/09 – 9:04 PM

Dearest family,

I have some very difficult news to share. The blood tests came back today, and it has been determined that Dad has acute leukemia. It has advanced so quickly that the standard recommendation is to do nothing (i.e., no radiation or chemotherapy, etc.)

At his age, they say the chemotherapy simply would not work. In short, the recommendation is to make him comfortable. The expectation is that he will live for a few weeks.

We are getting an additional opinion from a doctor in Salt Lake City, but the doctor has made it clear that he is not trying to short-change Dad, but is following accepted procedures based on Dad's age, situation, and the quick advancement of the leukemia.

Because his sugars will not stay in line, he will need to stay in ICU for now. They will not let children under age 12 enter the room, so please keep that in consideration if debating whether to bring them to see Grandpa or not.

We are so grateful for all of you and your prayers, fasting, and love. Dad says he has felt your prayers and love more than ever. Thank you so very much for your support.

Love, Little Steve

Tim,

I just got off the phone with my mom and she told me about what's going on with your dad right now. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I'm not

sure what I can really say, other than to let you know we are thinking of you guys and you will certainly be in our prayers. Your dad has been a big example to me, and I have always appreciated everything he has done to help me to become who I am today. Wish him well for me. I know the Lord will bless you and your family with the understanding and strength to make it through this difficult time. This has really made me realize how fragile life really is. I hope you are doing OK.

Shane Jenks

Steve,

Thank you so much for the detail. I talked this morning with your mom and she gave me the Reader's Digest version of what had happened. When you talk to her next, please reaffirm what I told her on the phone, that if there is ANYTHING that we can do to help other than pray and fast for him, we are MORE than willing. If she needs anything from home, or errands run, or anything at the hospital, or take care of anything in Blackfoot, etc., etc. You may want to encourage her to stay at our home while your dad's in the hospital here. I offered on the phone this morning, but she rejected it. Please make sure that she realizes the offer is genuine and sincere, and would be no inconvenience whatsoever. It certainly would be better than running back and forth from Moreland. We have two empty bedrooms now that are fully usable, and it would be an honor and a blessing to have her with us.

Please do keep us informed. I know your mom won't be able to call everyone everyday, and we wouldn't want her to feel obligated to go through a daily recap 20 times every day. So if you can keep us apprised of his progress and condition, and when he's able to accept visitors, we'd appreciate it immensely. In the meantime, we will indeed be praying for him. By the way, has his name been placed on the prayer rolls for the temples? If that hasn't been done, we'd be happy to.

Rick

Wednesday, January 28, 2009 – 8:37 AM

Steve,

Thank you for the update. I sit here in a state of shock and disbelief. That hardly seems possible. I'm so glad they're seeking additional guidance. I just can't believe even the acute form would manifest itself that rapidly. I want so badly to call your mom but I don't know that I dare. She's probably spending much of her day talking with you kids, and that's where the focus should be. I want to run up the hospital to see him, but probably won't be allowed to. I'll try later today anyway.

Keep us apprised, if you would please.

Rick

Wednesday, January 28, 2009 – 9:19 AM

Dear Steve,

This news is absolutely devastating. I was in shock last night and kept expecting some other word to come saying, "Ooops, they were wrong." I cannot impose on your mother at this time, but if you would let her know of our thoughts and prayers and anything we have is at her disposal. If in the future they require some trips to Salt Lake, please let her know we will do anything to help. Also, Jim and I have been to the Ogden Temple this morning and we put their names on the prayer roll.

I will call Sue in a few days. What's her cell phone number? In your message below, you put their home phone. Thank you so much for keeping us informed, and I will anxiously await hearing more news.

Love,

Karen

Steve,

I just got back from visiting the hospital. I was there about 40 minutes, and sensed it was time for me to leave. I was there when the doctor came in and provided an update. He said your dad is responding well to the medications stabilizing his blood-sugar level, and the Legionnaires Disease. With his favorable response to that medication, he will probably be leaving intensive care tomorrow, and be "booted" upstairs to a standard hospital room. Your dad quipped, "Good. Another step closer." As humorous as it was to have him say that, there was a very sobering element to it as well.

He looks good, and the doctors have been complimentary about his condition and shape for his age (which in my humble estimation is not very high, considering I'm just 14 years behind him!). Your mom and Steph are both very composed and doing some planning and reviewing of temporal issues in preparation for what seems to be an inevitable outcome.

I left before Gary and Linda got there, so hopefully I didn't have him too fatigued following my visit. If I hear anything else firsthand I'll pass that on to you as well.

Love,

Rick

Dear Steve,

We are so saddened to hear of this tragic news. You know how much we love you all and pray that you will be comforted. Tell your dad and Sue that we love them and that they will be in our thoughts and prayers. Thanks for keeping us informed. It is hard to be long distance. If there is anything we can do please let us know.

Love, Don and Deniece

I have received calls from our scouting circle wondering about any updates. Steve Larsen is the buzzword wherever I go. Our Institute class prayed for him by name in our opening and closing prayers. As his situation changes, like where he is geographically, or whatever else, is there a way we can get the word? We don't want to invade; we just want to see the answers to our prayers.

Jill Kirkham

Dad is peacefully resting as I write this, a blessing considering he has been struggling to breath well. He has not been eating or drinking, which we are told is a normal step towards his final moments. Dad's physician, Dr. McKinley was here this morning and upon counseling with the family, the decision was made to give him some IV fluids in hopes of extending his life until John and Paul can get here to see him.

We continue to be humbled by the outpouring of love from friends, family, and the community. Each new face at the door and phone call reiterates the profound influence Dad has been in the world and brings on a few more grateful tears. We have felt the comforting peace the Spirit provides and know the Lord is at the helm.

Mike

Notes from Family

January 28, 2009

Dear Dad,

Steve said several notes had arrived from various people and said we should send him a remembrance of you to add to the others. I am lucky to have a relationship with my dad that doesn't require me to think back further than even 3 weeks ago at Christmas. Do you remember telling me, "I think this has been the best visit you have had here."? I agree. I was able to spend two weeks with you in which we survived an insane snowstorm, exercised together, watched *Monk* and football, talked about tennis, John Grisham novels, BYU sports, girls, and I was able to observe you teach a gospel doctrine class. This was not all that unique, though. I have been able to enjoy those types of experiences throughout my entire life because you have put our family as your main interest and priority. I have always noticed that you have had an active, sincere interest in whatever our interests were. It's not about a memorable event, though, on which I want to write. I want to tell you what I feel when I am around you. I believe I was inspired to write some of the things that I feel around you after Christmas so that I can refer back to them. My entry on December 31st, 2008 is as follows:

"I wanted to write a few thoughts that have been on my mind. First of all, spending time with family, particularly my parents, over the holidays was quite impactful. I'm not quite sure why, but being here on my own tends to warp my perception of myself. Either that or my parents' perception of me is warped. It seemed the whole break they were telling me, "Look where you are with your life! Look at all you have accomplished and the progress you have made in so many areas. Look at how you have made a name for yourself in your company and in the Boise area." They kept telling me how proud they are of me and it made me feel so good. I wish I could have that feeling with me always. What will I do when they have passed away and I don't have their reassurances? Will I be sufficiently in tune with the spirit to know of God's approval and of theirs? In the short term, how can I remember these feelings and use them to strengthen my motivation in my job, personal life, with dating, etc.? I don't know how so I will just try to describe what they make me feel and believe. They make me feel and believe that anything I set out to complete I will be able to because I'm a finisher and dedicated to what I do. They make me feel and believe that although life is difficult, it is a memorable journey that should be experienced with God as a guide and a protector or caretaker and that fear should not be an overriding emotion, but rather confidence and faith. They make me feel and believe that I will meet an amazing girl to spend life with and with whom I am excited about physically, socially, mentally, and spiritually. In short, they increase my faith in God and how he can

help me do what life demands. If I need to, I can refer back to this entry and try to remember what I feel around my parents."

On a different note, I guess I do have a specific memory I would like to talk about. Around your 60th birthday, I remember you were out cooking Dutch oven and wearing a green bandana on your head that the grandkids had made. You came inside and we surprised you with a book in which all the kids had written a remembrance of you. I remember you sitting there a little taken aback and then just saying how proud you were of all of us. You continued on and said something to the effect of, "You know, your mother and I have done everything we can to teach you kids to rely on the atonement in your lives, believe in the doctrines of the restoration, and apply the gospel in your life." It was a surreal moment because we were all gathered around you and of all the things you could've talked about you said a few lines about your testimony and it was evident that it was the most important thing to you and that is what you wanted to leave us as your legacy. Now that I've had a day to process the news and try to grasp what this all means, I was thinking about the timing of things. Does it not seem more than a coincidence that within literally days of SaraKay leaving home this has happened? I'm sure you fulfilled countless missions during your life, but I know the mission that sticks out in my mind is your mission as a Father and raising all of us until the last child left home. Last night, as I knelt down to pray, all I could do was offer a prayer of gratitude. I gave thanks that I had the privilege of having Stephen Larsen as my dad and for 27 years in which I had an example in front of me of the ways things should be done.

You know how an actor can cry if they need to in a scene? I've heard that acting coaches tell them, "Every person has something so deep that if they think on it, it will bring them to tears. You have to find that thing." Strangely, when I heard that I thought, "If I were in Hollywood, the thing I would think on would be life without my dad because every time I think about that it makes my eyes tear up." If we go off what the doctors are saying, there are going to be some pretty major events in my life that you won't be physically around to talk about and enjoy with me. That will be different because I always loved rehashing basketball games with you, talking about college and work and pretty much anything else that meant anything to me.

I don't want you to worry about me, though, because right now I want to tell you what I'm going to do in my life. I make a promise to you, Dad that I will rely on the atonement throughout my life and strive to continually become a better person. I make a promise to you, Dad that I will find a beautiful girl and get married in the LDS temple and keep my covenants to her. I make a promise to you, Dad that I will have children and teach them the best I can. I make a promise to you, Dad that I will seek for the things that bring me joy and live a full and great life. I know you will be cheering me on because you have always been my biggest fan and made me feel

that you are proud of me. I can't express the love I have for you. I know you will be nearby. I love you,

Your Son,

Tim

March 2009

Dear Dad,

On Tuesday, January 27, I was at Scout Committee meeting when my cell phone vibrated with an incoming call from mom. She had told me that afternoon she would call as soon as the doctor told you your prognosis. Knowing full well that this could be the news that you would not be here on earth much longer, I decided not to take the call. I knew that you would want me to finish my responsibilities to the Lord and to the boys first. Your example guided me, as it has done so many times over the years.

Some of my earliest memories are of watching you serve as the bishop of our ward. I coveted the cheerios stuck in the vent of your office at the church (if only I could get them out!), and studied how you crossed your legs when you came to visit primary sharing time. I can still see the golden hue in your home office and remember the feeling I had that there was something special in there. Over the many years since then I have seen you serve faithfully in callings throughout the church, and I have come to know without a doubt of your dedication to the Lord and willingness to do whatever he asked of you.

When I was thirteen, we were on a scout camp out together. After a late night game of capture the flag, we had gathered with the troop in the middle of a meadow to laugh and relive the game. The boys grew quiet and the mood changed when off in the trees we heard a strange sound getting gradually louder. Some speculated it was a chain saw or some type of wild animal, but the thing that frightened me most was when you said, "that makes the hair stand up on the back of my neck!" Our fear turned back to laughter a few minutes later when you revealed that the sound was a lion's roar, pre-recorded and set-up by you and the other leader. All I knew was that if you were scared, I was scared.

I remember the pride I felt in being your "right hand man." When you were building the kitchen table I was only around five years old, but I wanted to be a part of what you were doing. I am sure now that I was not as helpful as I felt at the time, but the satisfaction I found in working with you did not end with that one experience. Sweet are the memories of getting wood for the fireplace, driving in the Toyota to take garbage to the dump, or loading up supplies for the tiger ear booth. You showed me the joy that comes from hard work.

For one of my early-teen birthdays, I received a camera. I probably ended up taking one or two rolls of pictures with it and one of the few photos I recall was of you sitting in your recliner in the darkened living room, reading by the light of a lamp. Even though the low-light setting made for a blurry photo given my limited photography skills, the image in my memory is clear--for the simple reason that it was burned in by countless times of seeing you there. You were always well-read, and I wanted to be the same. Several years later, a college lecture stirred my memory of this desire. I realized that if I truly wanted to be like you, I would have to take time to make this a part of my life. I committed then to get up earlier each day to cultivate this habit. I also asked the Lord to compensate for my reduced sleep time and sustain me in my effort. Your example had helped me to realize what I wanted to be and how to change.

Flying out to be with you at your death in January, I looked out the window as the plane took off from the Salt Lake airport. Seeing the temple bathed in light, the spirit bore witness to me that this was not the end. You and mom had made sacred covenants in the Lord's house, and been promised by one holding authority that we would be together in the eternities. Because you lived worthy, I have been blessed with the reassurance of this truth. As in so many other ways, I have reaped the blessings of your goodness. Thank you, dad, for the life you lived and the seeds of faith and hope that you planted in my soul.

Your son,

John

I now know why I was assigned the winter-summer track at BYU-Idaho. The past six months at home with mom and dad have been some of the sweetest and most precious time I've had. Heavenly Father knows what He's doing!

There are not adequate words to express my gratitude and love for this amazing spiritual giant of a person that I have been blessed to call my Dad. I am so so grateful for the life Dad has led and all of his sacrifices for our family and me; I don't know where to begin.

I see him outside, pruning trees, mowing the lawn, setting sprinklers, or fixing something in the garage. I see him in his office, working, in the computer room telling mom how to do something on the computer for the 57th time, or in the big chair in the dining room reading. I can see Mom and Dad and I reading scriptures and praying together every night. I wake up to the sound of the treadmill or stationary bike and his voice, memorizing something inspirational that he can whip out after "It's all in your head." He always looked so sharp every morning and I always loved his choice of cologne! I see him getting his haircut on the rug by the back door, wrestling or doing a Donald Duck voice with the grandkids, walking out to get the mail or put out the garbage.

While some dads watch a football game, he would watch "Music and the Spoken Word." He was always filling his office with beautiful BYU concerts or devotional talks or "True Blue." I can see his longing looks at Smith and Edwards as we pass by, stick shift lessons, and lots of advice: finance, technology, exercising, the gospel, and sometimes even boys!

I always felt safe when Dad was home. His presence just brings strength and peace, I don't know how else to describe it. All was well when Dad was home, and nothing was impossible! I remember time and time again being in some sort of crisis and Dad fixing it with some sensible advice or a tool in his toolbox.

Dad always did what was right, no questions asked, he just got down to business and got done what he needed to. He made living the gospel look simple; his faith never seemed to waver.

I will never forget the good times at scout camp or the early morning trumpet wake up calls or the tiger ear booth; going to kiss him goodnight and smelling that familiar tiger ear aroma! He was always an amazing leader; I can picture him in front of large groups of scouts, saints, and family. I can picture him down in front of that stage, sometimes with a trumpet in the orchestra pit and sometimes behind a video camera.

He was a constant support in all that I endeavored. Before I left for college he would talk about how much he was going to miss hearing the piano. I will never forget the father's blessings, the gentle hands and calm, steady voice. I will never forget lying in bed and listening to Mom and Dad's soft murmured review of the events of the day.

Fought a good fight, finished the course, and kept the faith.

I LOVE YOU, DAD.

-Your eternal and favorite youngest daughter, SaraKay

Dear Dad,

It has been a wonderful blessing to me to see all the expressions of love and concern for you....all from people who have been blessed by your wonderful life.

I'm reminded of the movie, "It's A Wonderful Life". In the last scene, George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) is standing in his living room with his wife and children standing by (and hanging on his neck). He watches in disbelief as friends and neighbors from all walks of life pile into the room with smiles ear to ear sharing with George how happy they are to be there to come to George's aid..... because George had in one way or another touched their life. With all the excitement in the room, George looks down next to the basket of money his friends have been depositing to and sees a book. George picks it up....it is Tom Sawyer, a gift that his guardian

angel Clarence Oddbody has given to him. Inside, it states, "No one is poor who has friends."

Dad, you have touched so many lives and have so many friends. Like George, you may have never been rich monetarily, but have been rich in friends and family. You have been rich in eternal things.

As I have been reflecting on your life, one of the first things I went back to was the family letters you've shared with us. Those are such a treasure! You would generally leave us with a quote each week. One of them that you shared with us on two separate occasions is the following: "Our achievements are shaped by the terrain of our lives and the strength of the foundations we set. In building the life we've imagined, we must be true to our beliefs, dare to be ethical, and strive to be honorable. For integrity is the highest ground to which we can aspire."

Dad, thanks for not only taking the high ground, but also showing me how to get there.

Thanks for teaching me how to work, how to laugh (even if it sometimes involved puns), how to study, how to look at life positively, how to pray, how to sing, how to share, how to open doors for others, how to treat my wife (because you were a gentleman to Mom), how to lead, how to use the priesthood, and how to love. You will always be in my heart.

I love you!

Little Steve

Dear Grandpa,

You are always so funny and I love the bear hugs you give me when I come to your house. You are really smart and I love you a lot. You are the best grandpa ever.

I really love you.

Love,

Christine Larsen

Dear Grandpa,

I will always remember you for your Donald Duck voice. You have always been a happy joking person that is good at making people laugh. I remember you always being the head of things. You deserve the best. Have a great journey.

Love,

Nathan Larsen

Dear Grandpa,

I remember whenever I'd come to your house, you would always give me a big welcoming hug. Whenever we asked you to play a game with us, you would always do it, and we'd have so much fun (like when you played Hide and Seek with us and Capture the Flag). It was really fun.

Love,

Jared

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

This is your long-lost granddaughter who has not yet fallen off the face of the earth. I heard about Grandpa's health problems and wanted to express how sorry I am and let you know that we in Zhongshan are praying so hard for you. I love you both so much and wish I could be there physically with you right now but know that I am there in spirit and you are here with me in my thoughts and prayers.

You are some of the best people I have ever met or ever will meet. Your house has always been a home for me and my interactions with you such a treat. I love sitting on the swing and snapping beans with you or just talking when you come for a visit. I love reading the family letter and hearing your voice on the telephone. I miss you both so much in China! but am so excited for when I come back and we can sit together face to face and I can tell you about my adventures and you can tell me about yours.

I'm so grateful to you for giving me such a wonderful family of aunts and uncles and cousins, and especially for raising the best mom in the world. She is so dear and important to me and my best friend and example and I love her so much! I know she must come from amazing parents to be the amazing parent she is to me, and I can't imagine where I would be without you or her. Thank you.

China is so neat and really really cool. I wish you could be here with me to experience the New Year firecrackers, squat toilets, and strange produce. Let me know if I can get you any pirated DVDs or communist literature while I am here. We had the opportunity to go to church last Sunday in Shenzhen and it was so good to take the sacrament and feel the Spirit and meet those good people there. It felt like home.

I love you so very much! Keep in touch.

Much love,

Kate

Dear Dad,

A lot of my memories of you revolve around your activities as "fix-it" man. I remember watching you working underneath the car, installing and aligning the automatic garage door opener, sharpening the lawn mower blades, or working on the washer and dryer (seems like I have several memories of that). I have fixed in my mind snapshots of you doing these things -- like photographs or short video clips that for some reason my mind captured and held on to. Or maybe these images were burned into my mind because of the many times I saw you doing these things.

I also remember working with you: chainsawing a huge, fallen tree to get firewood, tilling and weeding the garden, gathering fallen apples at the Harper's to make apple cider. My personal favorite was loading the woodbox in the dead of winter. I remember how you and a few others would lob pieces of wood from the woodpile to the chute, and how a few of us would run around picking up the lobbed pieces and pushing them down the chute. I also remember one day getting nailed by a large piece of wood flying through the air (I think we changed our strategy at that point to loading up our arms or loading up a sled). I also remember working with you to cut up the old wood palettes into appropriate-sized pieces. I have a distinct memory of working with you, probably in the late fall, and it was extremely windy and cold -- so cold that I eventually gave up and went inside. After going inside, I remember staring out our living room window at you. You were alone, outside in the cold, wearing just your old leather vest with the fluffy wool interior, working like crazy to get the wood cut and ready. I still remember the amazement and admiration I felt in that moment to have such a strong, hard-working dad. Now, as I write and reflect on your life, I feel that same amazement and admiration.

I remember another interesting experience related to keeping our house warm. One day our wood-burning stove was malfunctioning so you had shut it down. Being the great son that I was, I noticed the stove wasn't running so I decided to carry out the unpopular task of getting a fire going. After doing so, I retreated to my room in the basement and closed the door. A half hour or so later, I remember my door flying open and your head popped in along with billows of smoke. Your eyes were red and blood-shot from the smoke, and you asked, "Did YOU start the fire?" I then found out about the malfunctioning stove but unfortunately our house was already full of smoke, and I remember we had all the doors and windows open despite the frigid weather and we were crawling along the floor, coughing and trying to breathe. It was a crazy experience but somehow I think everyone realized in the moment how funny it was.

I had the chance to work with you on Grandpa's farm when I was 14. Mike and I worked on the combine while you drove the tractor. One evening after sunset, there was some problem that required us to just hang out for awhile. I think you realized it was an ideal moment to tell me about the birds and the bees, so you asked me to come into the cab of the tractor, and you explained it to me as I stood there. Fortunately, I had the wisdom

to keep on my dust mask and monogoggles and hat, all completely covered in dust, so I didn't really have to look at you or respond, for which I was very grateful. You asked if I had any questions, I shook my head, then you let me leave the tractor cab. I think you really did choose the ideal moment.

I remember your kindness to others. I remember driving as a family to some activity at the high school. On the way there, we joked about how you seemed to know EVERYONE. As we walked from the car to the high school, we said, pointing at a random man walking toward the high school, "I bet you don't know HIM!" Sure enough, as we got closer to him, you greeted him and we realized you did know him after all, and we busted up laughing that we couldn't find anyone you didn't know. I remember fondly the huge smile and handshake you extended to everyone at church. It seemed you had a way of brightening everyone's day.

I remember priesthood blessings. In particular, I remember the blessing you gave me before Crawford Cup and the peace and confidence it provided. Similarly, I remember vividly the blessing you gave me the night before leaving on my mission, and the feeling of peace and confidence that replaced my fear and uncertainty. I also remember being ordained to the priesthood as a deacon. That night I wrote in my journal that it seemed as though Heavenly Father himself was ordaining me. The feeling that Heavenly Father was near has often accompanied your priesthood blessings. I am grateful I had the chance to receive one final blessing from you this past Thanksgiving. Thank you so much for always honoring your priesthood and living in such a way that I could always count on you for a blessing.

I appreciate that you have never tolerated any disrespect toward Mom. I remember one occasion in which I answered the front door late at night without turning the outside light on. Afterward, Mom reminded me I should turn on the light for visitors, and I defended myself saying that I couldn't find the light switch. You sensed the disrespect in my voice and let me know in no uncertain terms that my behavior was inappropriate. It was a tense moment, and your scolding really upset me. I think you sensed how much it upset me because later that night you called me into your office and discussed the situation with me and tried to help me feel better. I remember you gave me the Boy Scout Handbook that night and talked to me about scouting, which really helped me feel better. I still have that handbook and use it each week as I work with the 11-yr-old scouts. I think of you every time I put on my scout shirt.

As a youth we were taught what a testimony was. I remember going to a youth testimony meeting and feeling like most the testimonies were not appropriate and were not what a testimony was supposed to be. Afterward, we were discussing the testimony meeting in the living room with you and Mom, and I expressed my criticisms of the testimonies. I

thought you and Mom would agree with me, so I was very surprised when you became very serious and taught me that I should NEVER criticize someone's testimony. You explained that it required courage to get up in front of others, that we were all learning and not perfect, and that rather than criticize we should look for the good in what others said. It was a stern rebuke, but I felt the truthfulness of your words and have never forgotten them.

You have been an amazing example of leading the family in family prayer and family home evening (a.k.a. family home evening). It seems like we always knelt around the piano bench and prayed in the morning. I liked it when you prayed because I could feel the sincerity and power of your words as you prayed for each family member and spoke with Heavenly Father. I think your relationship with Heavenly Father has been such that you are able to speak with Him sincerely.

I should probably bring this to a close as it's getting late. The more I write, the more I remember, and the more I remember, the more I feel grateful to have been raised by a righteous, hard-working, honest, faithful, caring, sincere father who I will truly miss in the coming years but who I have full confidence I will see again! Thank you for loving Mom, for loving and teaching me, and for following the Savior through Whom we will someday live again forever as a family.

I love you,

Paul

So many [thoughts] have come floating to [me] during a fretful nights sleep.

Jonie Johnson

My Memories of Dad

November 2007

A few Sundays ago when we were visiting Mom and Dad, we got to joking about writing a new article entitled "Dad's Enduring Voice." This article would not be similar at all to the article written about Mom. This article would be full of quippy one-liners. Here is only a partial list—I'm sure everyone could add a few more that I have overlooked:

Does the sun come up in the east?

It's all in your head!

Cute as a bug's ear.

Clever as a toilet lever and twice as handy.

Only fools are positive.

Come in, sit down, and take a mess off your feet!

Andale, andale, por la manana no vengas!

Good morning to you, good morning to you, we're all in our places with egg on our faces, for this is the way, we start a good day!

On a more serious note, I would like to mention that the majority of my memories of Dad are of a spiritual nature. Sunday mornings Dad would turn on classical music to set the mood for the day. Sunday afternoons often brought father's interviews and family councils with scripture study time. Dad always had such a great attitude about his church responsibilities. I don't remember him complaining about the many meetings he needed to attend, and he was always supportive in word and deed of our church leaders. He was a faithful and cheerful home teacher as well. I remember when I was really young I would wrap my arms around dad's leg and sit on his foot while he visited with ward members in the foyer after church. I don't remember sitting with Dad at church because he was always on the stand. To this day I do wonder, though, if Dad was really "resting his eyes" like Mom said when he was sitting on the stand as bishop. I kind of think he was dozing because of the early morning bishopric meetings.

Dad encouraged each of us to develop the habit of reading the scriptures daily by challenging us to read daily and earn our Bible and triple combination. I felt so happy to have my name engraved on those scriptures! When I left on my mission, all the other missionaries seemed to be getting new leather scriptures. There was no way I was going to part with the scriptures that Dad had given me and that had helped me gain my testimony. He walked the walk, too—he arose early each morning to sit in his big recliner in the living room and read his scriptures before the craziness began.

Dad has really helped me develop a love for the temple. I loved having Dad help with baptisms for the dead. He said all the names really quickly and never stumbled on the Spanish names. When I went through the temple for the first time to receive my endowments I remember going into the celestial room and being greeted by Dad and his big bear hug. As soon as I saw him I knew it was okay that I was not being greeted by a fiancé. Last year I had another choice experience with Dad at the temple as he helped Grandpa Larsen go through a session. I felt so much love for both of them as I watched Dad help Grandpa with his robes. I was grateful to Dad for including me in that temple trip. It was especially sweet to stand in the prayer circle with Grandpa Larsen.

I have many memories of Dad having fun with us, too. He was always the best hitter in the games of 500 on the front lawn. He has always played a mean game of volleyball. No one could defend his killer hook shot. Camping and dutch oven cooking were his forte. He faithfully attended my

basketball and volleyball games and made sure the referees knew when they had made a bad call. He had great intentions of staying up through the late-night talks. His snoring as the night wore on was our clue that it was time to wrap things up and go to bed. He patiently tried to teach me to drive a stick shift. The green Toyota has never done the California jig like it did when I was trying to learn. I can still see Dad folded into the passenger seat with his knees nearly touching his chest and his head nearly touching the roof, trying to be patient with me. I know I also tried him to his limit when he was tutoring me through the high school math classes.

When I was little I knew I had the best dad ever. He was the tallest dad around, had the strongest handshake, had the biggest smile, could hit the ball further than anyone else, could fix anything from popcorn poppers to washing machines, had the most amazing voice, and on and on. I realize now that I did not even appreciate him for his best qualities. How did he maintain his sanity through raising 11 kids? How did he have the patience to ever go on a road trip or take all of us camping? How many years did he put up with everything being under attack except his fingernail clippers? How many ice cream cones did he have to lick to save the interior of the van? I don't know how Dad did it, but I am so grateful that he did.

Dear Dad,

I talked with Mom on Tuesday, January 27th, before the diagnosis of acute leukemia. Mom said that you had just shaved and were looking better all ready. We joked about how you were not to go anywhere yet...that we hadn't released you. Earlier that week I had asked David what we would do if you were to leave us. Never did I think that you would go so soon.

David and Tim traveled to Blackfoot on Thursday, January 29. I received a call from David later that night. He asked me if I would like to join the family. For the next 45 minutes he left his phone on and allowed me to be part of the moment in Blackfoot. Sitting four hours away in Boise in a darkened and still room I listened quietly as Mom told stories, children shared feelings, and even laughter was present (Larsens always have laughter). All in the room seemed to share a sense of peace...sadness surely, but peace. Twice I heard Mom ask you if you were okay, "Did you need them to go? Steve, are you too hot?" And then I heard the family working to make you more comfortable. No regrets, no frustrations, but peace.

You loved Mom all the way to the end. Needing to hold and be near your Susan. My own David, your son, took my hand after you passed and told me, "I've got to enjoy you every moment". Your son has given me all that I could want in a marriage...security, peace, love, tenderness, joy, family, and faith.

The last time that you visited our home we (the entire Boise Bunch) challenged you to a recitation challenge. We sat around the kitchen table

and recited every poem that we knew. You had so many poems memorized that we could not keep up. Your mind was filled with good poetry and good thoughts. What I would give now to have that visit recorded. How many poems did you really have stored in your mind?

When I first joined the Larsen family I found myself alone in the car with you following a family reunion. I asked you why your family had worked and how I could create that type of environment. Your answer was "consistency". "Andrea, just be consistent with all of the gospel teachings. Do the basics and be consistent." I have been trying to be consistent ever since.

Dad, I miss you with all of my heart. Who is going to give me those big, bear hugs...lifting my feet right off the floor? Our children have been blessed by your love and commitment to our family. Thank you for keeping us a family. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for being our father and grandfather forever.

I love you,

Andrea

January 30, 2009

Dear Dad,

As I sit here in the early morning hours listening to your quick breathing and occasional cough, the thoughts and memories of precious time with you come vividly to mind.

Many years ago in the early 1980s, Steve and I had been working on the fort we were building in the pasture. You had called us for family prayer but we hadn't heard your call. When you finally got our attention, we knew you weren't happy with us. Mom had gently reminded you that we were trying to be good boys and to be easy on us. You took us back into your bedroom and here, even where I now sit, took Steve in your right arm and me in your left. You acknowledged that you sometimes had unreasonable expectations of us. You gave us a chance to voice our feelings. With mutual understanding and softer emotions now closer to the surface, we wept together. That point seemed to be a turning point in our relationship with you. Your patience with and tolerance for us seemed to expand. Accompanying the increased long-suffering was a relationship of trust that replaced the anxiety that had existed before.

Also in the early 80s, shortly after moving into this home, you put us to work digging post holes and putting in the cedar fence that surrounds the property. Steve, and I spent many hours working side by side with you on that project. You could easily have found someone with a post hole digger and cut the project timeline by many hours, but we would have missed that time working together.

I fondly remember going with you to cut down yet another dead tree and watching you expertly cut it into logs to be hauled back to our home for heating during the harsh southeastern Idaho winters.

Your love for the trumpet caught my interest, and I enrolled in band in seventh grade. You helped teach me to play the trumpet and I too grew to love this instrument. Your love for singing also spilled over into my life and continues with me to this day.

You always had a smile and a kind word for others. You could have written the book, "How to Win Friends and Influence People" because this ability came so naturally to you. Evidence of this is your positive impact on so many people through your callings in the Church and through your work with volunteers and other professionals in the Boy Scouts of America.

You loved to read. While you were an insurance salesman, you filled your mind with the words of inspirational speakers and writers like Zig Ziglar and Norman Vincent Peale. When you finished a book, you would give it to one of your children and helped to nurture in us a positive outlook on life and a belief in our potential.

The priesthood was one of your prized possessions. We started each school year with your hands placed upon our head as we received a father's blessing. Love and power from our Heavenly Father flowed through your hands and touched our souls. You faithfully executed whatever priesthood assignment he was given. Your service was always accompanied with vitality and the Spirit of the Lord as you served with a willing heart.

You prioritized family. A few years back, Joseph was preparing for baptism. You had some heavy responsibilities that you needed to tend to and weren't going to be able to travel to Boise. Somehow you made arrangements and surprised our family by showing up to the Stake Center where the baptism was to be performed. Your presence meant so much to us.

February 15, 2009

Just over two weeks have gone by since you left your mortal body, and your physical presence is sorely missed. I think about you often and pray for your peace and happiness in your new sphere and assignment with loved ones who have gone before. While I will never again see you in your mortal frame, I take hope and comfort in the knowledge that I will see you again after this life likely as a spirit and eventually as a resurrected being. The memories of your life and what you stood for live on in me and inspire me to become more like Christ. I feel so blessed to call you my father...now and forever.

David

Dear Dad,

In November when we visited you, I remember talking with you just before you left for Wright's 90th birthday party. I was trying to figure out how old I would be when you turned 90. You surprised me by telling me that you needed to "die before Sue." I remember thinking to myself, "you are not going anywhere for a long time, Dad." I could not have fathomed this disease which would come so quickly to claim you.

I desire to express the deep sadness I feel that you are leaving us. I will truly miss you. My emotions have been and are close to the surface since hearing about this disease which has so suddenly altered the bright hopes you and Mom have had for missions and retirement. You are irreplaceable as our father and mom's husband and your leaving leaves a gap in our family which is very real. I know that Heavenly Father has and will continue to strengthen each of us who are left behind.

I feel confident that your passing signals a call to service on the other side of the veil. I take great comfort in knowing that you are prepared to serve the Lord. Yesterday morning we gathered our children to tell them the news. They were very sad that you will not be able to come and visit us in a few weeks as we have all been looking so forward to that visit. As they were expressing their disappointment and sadness, Paul told them with tears going down his cheeks, "But this is also good news--because Grandpa Larsen has lived a very good life and he is ready to go and help Heavenly Father on the other side." Please know that our thoughts and faith will still be with you after you have passed on. . . I imagine your new service will bring new challenges and adventures.

I have been thinking about the past 8 years that I have known you, and I have so many memories--meeting you when you were building shelves at Steve's house, sitting in the living room and talking (you in your big chair), talking in the car on drives to Rexburg or Burley, going to Nauvoo with you, your visit to our house in Wisconsin, listening to you sing in special musical numbers and choirs, river rafting, listening to you play your trumpet, the flag ceremony at the family reunion, burning bonfires in the yard, cooking on your new grill, your visit to Mike's graduation and later to Paul's graduation, insight sessions at family reunions, being enveloped in hugs by your big arms as we come and go. We have truly had many sweet and choice hours and days with you. I have been thankful for your the tenderness you have shown toward our children. We have so many sweet pictures of you with them.

I am so thankful for your tireless efforts to bind our family together. I have watched you work and work at family reunions to prepare in advance, to keep them going smoothly, and then to clean up afterward. I have observed the love and respect which you show to Mom. I have listened to the two of you plan, discuss, and joke together. It truly breaks my heart to see the two of you separated like this--yours is a beautiful eternal union.

Most recently, I am thankful that I was able to be with you as you gave Paul a father's blessing in November when we visited for Thanksgiving. I remember the tenderness I felt as I watched and listened to you exercise the power of the priesthood to bless my husband, your son. The priesthood you hold and have honored has had a remarkable influence in blessing my family's life, especially because of the example you set for Paul and the things you taught him. He now honors his priesthood and blesses our children by his teachings and righteous example. Your influence will continue through generations to come.

It is impossible for me to express to you all the tender feelings I am feeling. Tears have flowed freely these past few days. I feel deep gratitude and love for you. May the Lord bless you in your continued labors and I look forward to a joyful reunion someday.

I look forward to seeing you on Saturday.

I love you,

Jenny

I've only known Dad for 5 years now, but he's always treated me like his own daughter and as if I'd known him my whole life.

When I married Mike, he welcomed me with open arms into the family and I have always felt nothing but love and acceptance from him. I love that he is always so happy to see me. I love to see him with our kids too; he is a wonderful grandpa to them. Amber knows him as the grandpa that talks like Donald Duck! In Ellie's room is a picture of Mom and Dad, and Ellie points to it almost every time she wakes up. She loves her grandma and grandpa!

I'm so grateful that Mike and I moved to Idaho 2 1/2 years ago. Living only 1 1/2 hours away from Blackfoot, it's given me the chance to see him often and get to know him better. I couldn't ask for a better father-in-law. He has gone the extra mile for his family his whole life, and for that I will eternally be grateful.

He has raised a phenomenal family and set an exceptional example for me as a parent.

Thank you, Dad! I love you!

Love,

Marci

Dad,

There are way too many memories to write down in a simple note!

I have loved your weekly family letters. Thank you for your diligence in writing and sending those out. You bore testimony and gave great advice in those letters. You kept us up to date on the happenings in your life, which helped us feel closer (being so far away in Michigan and China). We treasure those letters.

When John and I were at BYU we spent several wonderful Christmases in Blackfoot. On our drive home, after one Christmas break, our car broke down half to way Provo. We called you and you immediately got in your truck, rescued us and drove us down to Provo. Emma was a baby and cried the whole way. I was so grateful for your kindness. A few weeks later you and mom let us borrow a car for several weeks until we could buy a used one from a dealership.

You gave everything to your family!

Most of my memories of you are at family reunions. Especially the last year's reunion when you drove the ski boat and presided over a beautiful family fireside by the campfire -- complete with a flag burning.

Thanks for raising John into the man he is today. Your legacy will live on through your kids and grand kids. You are so loved!

John and I will fly to Idaho tomorrow. We are anxious to be with you...

Love, Laurel

Steve and Family,

It's so difficult to know where to start in assessing the impact my oldest brother has had in my life. I will attempt to provide a succinct, "readers digest" version to capture the essence.

I have always thought of Steve as the duplicate of my father. As Enoch was to Adam, so Steve Larsen was to Allan Larsen. Honest, conscientious, deliberative, a blend of the practical yet idealistic, optimistic, knowledgeable, loving, and wise. To me, Steve has been the embodiment of the 13th Article of Faith, for he truly followed the

counsel, "We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, and in doing good to all men." I saw this not only as his brother, but in his administration of Boy Scout programs and activities, and as a Priesthood leader, since he served as my Bishop. I still have in my Book of Remembrance my first temple recommend, signed by three

Larsens: My own, as applicant, my fathers' as my Stake President, and Steve's as my Bishop.

Truly he is, and was, the epitome of the perfect "big brother:" showing the way by example, able to teach the underlying principles of happiness by precept, and leading and encouraging with the power of love. Through all

the challenging times of my life, mostly of my own making, he has always been there to lean on and to show me the correct course.

Although the frequency of our contacts had diminished the past few years as he was no longer coming to Pocatello everyday, his influence was always present. Especially after dad died, Steve was my proxy father, and I always knew I could turn to him to learn truth and wisdom, bestowed with a truly Christ-like love.

Steve will be as my mother and father are: gone from mortality, but never forgotten, and ever an abiding influence for good. People come and go from our lives throughout our mortal sojourn, but few make as large of an impact in the lives of so many as Stephen Larsen. I will be forever grateful for him as a mentor. He truly was all that one

could ever hope from a "big brother." And I can honestly say, when I grow up, I want to be like him.

Love,

Rick

I remember the first time I met Steve & Sue before Rick and I were even serious about each other and felt immediately comfortable with them as though we were already friends. Both have huge contagious smiles and radiate much love for others and great amounts of sensitivity. Steve, you have been an exemplary older brother for your siblings and one who always walks the path of righteousness and service to others. The fact that Steve was able to win the heart of Sue, whom I greatly love and admire, tells me that he must have been a real catch physically, mentally and spiritually, etc, and those strengths have obviously increased over the years. Our family has so many fond memories of many family gatherings in their home where we always felt welcomed and loved and were well fed.

I think what I remember most is attending all the mission farewells and reports before the changes were made, and being so moved spiritually not only by your children who served missions but especially by Steve and Sue's profound messages and firm testimonies. I always felt strengthened by being in attendance and gratitude to have such exemplary relatives for my family to want to emulate. Steve kindly filled in for us when special priesthood needs arose in our home and how grateful we were to him for rising to the requests for such assistance.

My heart is filled with an abundance of love and appreciation for both Steve and Sue and they will continue to be in my prayers especially during this difficult "interruption " in life. May the Lord's comfort and peace dwell in abundance at this time and always, with all my love,

Terry Larsen

Steve,

I would love to. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to do so. I am so sorry to hear about your Dad. This whole thing couldn't have happened to a truer, stalwart, and hardworking man.

My most profound memory of your Dad was when I worked for him at Island Park Scout Camp back in 1998 as a 15-year-old. It was, at that point, one of the toughest things I'd ever had to do, living apart from my family a week at a time for 6 weeks. I also started out on the rifle range, which is where I (and probably every other scout on the premises) had always wanted to be stationed. However, about 2 weeks into the summer, another scout employee asked to be transferred out of the Commissary for various reasons, and Steve asked me if I'd switch him. Going into the summer, the Commissary was probably the least likely place I wanted to end up. I would have rather worked ANYWHERE else. But, because he had asked, I did it. And I hated it! I got there late almost every morning (they required us to be up and at work at 6:30am or 7:00am) because I would sleep in, and subsequently would end up having to clean the freezer as punishment.

However, I learned so much from my work at Scout Camp. My parents noticed that I was much more proactive in helping out with things around the house and more willing to help them in various capacities, and they (and I) attributed it to my work at Scout Camp. Steve taught me to not be afraid to ask people to do things they didn't want to do. I'm sure he knew it would be good for me, and, in the end (though I definitely didn't see it at the time) it definitely was. Steve has always been a great role model to me and I always enjoyed visiting Uncle Steve and Aunt Sue when I was a kid. I wish I could do it now. Being in Florida it makes it tough, but please pass on my love and admiration for him. If the picture is as bleak as has been related to me, I will miss him very much, but will always remember the lessons he taught me and his kind and solid attitude toward life. My Dad has always admired and loved his oldest brother, and that love trickled down to the rest of us.

Thanks, Steve. Sorry I wrote a novel there. Thanks again for giving me this opportunity. You have a great family! And that came from, in large part, to the way Steve and Sue raised you guys. Let me know if I can do anything at all to help.

Love,

Jacob

Steve,

This isn't necessarily a memory of my Uncle Steve, but more of a feature of his that I know everyone has loved about him. About 10 years ago, my dad dug up some old family taped videos from when he was

younger, there was no audio, but the visual came in pretty well. Aubrey and I were watching, just mesmerized by how young everyone looked, and a handsome face came onto the camera that we didn't quite recognize.

Aubrey and I were just amazed at the handsome young man and his DROP DEAD SMILE!!! We asked my Dad who it was, and to our surprise it was Uncle Steve (he had a nice head of hair, so maybe that's why we didn't recognize him at first glance!) Anyway, what I'm trying to get at, is that Uncle Steve's smile is contagious; not only because it's a GREAT smile, but because it's so genuine and sincere. He has always been one of the relatives that I always look forward to seeing at Larsen family events because he brightens up the room and gives me the best hugs! He is so very loved by all those that know him and he will be missed extremely. Please send our love for him. We have been keeping him and your family in our prayers. Please know that we are here for your family and are offering help in any way needed.

Sincerely, Your Cousin, Amanda Frost

Long before John and I were married, John was working for SYSCO as a delivery driver. One day after work, he called me and couldn't stop talking about the nicest businessman he'd met and conversed with. He mentioned his insecurity about being judged by his appearance (i.e. his tattoos) but that instead, he sat and spoke with him for at least 15 minutes; he was treated like an actual person and not as an inferior delivery guy.

So I asked him where it was he had delivered to and met this man, and he told me it was at the Boy Scout office. And I said, "Really? What was his name", knowing that my uncle worked there. And he said his name was Steve. Steve Larsen. I then exclaimed, "That's my uncle!"

We had a good laugh about what a coincidence it was, and then discussed what an amazing man he is. I have known Uncle Steve a lot longer than John of course, but just that one conversation he had with Steve was enough to see what a great man he truly is. John was so appreciative that Steve would look past the surface, and see the true depth and potential he had to offer.

Steve has touched so many people by the outstanding example he has set in life. I have always appreciated his gentle demeanor, his words of wisdom, and his strong spirit. His hugs are enough to melt anyone's heart, and I can always see the genuine concern in his eyes when he asks how I'm doing.

There are few men in the world these days who can compare to my Uncle Steve. I feel so blessed to even know him, let alone be related! I will never forget the example he's been, and the many ways he has touched my life.

Aubrey Marienau

Dear Steve,

Thank you so much for keeping us informed and updated regarding your dad. I am still somewhat in shock. I just saw Stephen and Susan two weeks ago in Chandler at Becky's home, and he looked so good.

What a sweet, but short, visit we had. They were so looking forward to retirement in 11 months and being able to serve a mission. How quickly life can change! We truly never know what life has to offer, but how grateful we are for the peace and assurance, the comfort and security we derive from the gospel and living our lives as best we can to emulate our Savior. And there aren't many people in this life who have done that better than your mom and dad. How grateful I have always been for their faith and their example.

So I have to ask....I get the impression that Stephen has been given, by the doctors, just a short time left in this life because of the advanced stage of the leukemia. I find myself wondering if there is any feeling of fighting this diagnosis, if the combined great faith of your family and the extended family members as well as so many friends and associates are in any way looking for a miracle recovery or if there is just an acceptance of this as the Lord's will. Please share with me what the general feeling is, okay?

Now, where do I start for thoughts or memories? I remember staying with newlyweds Steve and Sue in the little house out on the farm on the desert. Sue had fixed toast as part of breakfast, and Steve chewed it very loudly and with his mouth open so the crunch would really emphasize how "toasty" it really was. He was just teasing his new bride. I also remember Sue working at Kesler's that summer and how sick she was-----she always seemed to have such trouble with morning sickness. (We were comparing pregnancies once and I said I had thrown up one day, and Sue promptly said, "That's probably the one day I didn't.") I also remember being at BYU and being so grateful I had a big brother and sister living so close. I think I babysat for them a time or two. The thing I remember most was Steve saying to call him "Crane" because he had to help Sue in and out of chairs and bed when she was so big carrying the twins. I can still picture her scraping the food off of David's chin and feeding it to Steve, and vice versa, and then dodging when they sneezed. They literally had to make a chart to keep track of who ate when so they wouldn't miss feeding one of those little babies.

Stephen has always been so kind and considerate of people. He can make anyone feel loved and important, because he sincerely thinks that of everyone----they are important and they are loved. I don't believe I have ever heard him say anything mean or even negative about anyone. He is certainly a giant of a man in every way. He was blessed with a tall strong body because it had to house such a big spirit. I am thankful for the blessing he has always been in my life. God bless and comfort all of you. My heart and thoughts and prayers are with you.

Love,
Jeanie

Uncle Steve has always had such a great sense of humor and the ability to tease and joke with any of the nieces and nephews. I always loved going to Uncle Steve's house because of the warmth and the spirit that was present. It was fun to jump on the tramp, play card games/board games, and just hang out with a wonderful family. The best thing about Uncle Steve is his family--they mirror his commitment to the

Gospel, his sensitivity to others, and his pursuit of a fulfilling life. He is a living example that you can be spiritually minded and centered, and not be a "fuddy-duddy". :) Hang in there--there are soo many people all over the world praying for you and your family.

Love, Miken and Lyman Dayton

Reed, Lily, and Joe

Steve,

You made me feel very welcome when I joined the Larsen family. I appreciated the way you always came up to find out how I was doing. I felt your sincerity and enjoyed our conversations. Seeing you was always something to look forward to.

Love,

Sean Edmunds

I just wanted to pass on a few thoughts and memories of my dear Uncle Steve.

I have always felt so welcome in the Steve and Sue Larsen home, greeted with a bear hug from Uncle Steve :). Uncle Steve is just a happy and pleasant person to be around. I have rarely to seen him without a smile.

I am appreciative of how supportive and encouraging Uncle Steve has been to our family regarding our various musical pursuits. Whenever we would visit, he would take the time to listen to a song or two and be so complimentary and encouraging.

I have so many fond memories of Larsen family reunions. Being far away was sometimes hard but getting together again was so wonderful.

I loved how inclusive everyone was...Steve took time to check in and ask about your life.

Many years ago, for a family reunion activity (I must have been 6 or 7), we all went swimming at the Blackfoot pool. I was very inexperienced in the water, wandered out too far and realized I was literally in over my head.

Steve came by just as I was starting to panic and helped me return to safer waters. To me, that experience really sums up the way Steve lives his life. He is an anchor to so many people, seeing the best in others, and through his example and encouragement, leading many to safe waters.

With love, prayers, and many fond memories,

Maren (Gentry) Kirwan

When I think about him, my first thought is that his Spirit, heart and intellect equally match his stature. Indeed he is a Lion of the Lord! He has a thunderous and infectious laugh and a mellifluous voice (speaking and singing) that teaches profoundly without derision, or condescension. Despite the great distance of years and mileage, I always enjoyed each encounter with him as if we always picked up where we left off. He is always genuinely interested in the doings and happenings of those around him. I will always remember fondly the summer of 1994 where he pulled some strings to give Paul and I a job at Camp Little Lemhi. The days were idyllic par excellence. I will always credit him for teaching me how to wiggle my ears--he just told me I had to concentrate real hard on moving the muscles that move my ears. Oh, and who can forget the way he dished out the ice cream with a knife that cut perfectly equal rectangles. Maybe this was an extension of his equal treatment of all who were in his home (living or visiting)---plus the incredible management skills needed to run the tight ship of the Larsen home. Those are just a few thoughts that are on the surface right now.

I know that your family has been honed into a streamlined mechanism of faith, steadfastness, humor, service and success through the great leadership of your great father and my dear Uncle Steve.

much love and happiness.

Christian

Dear Larsens,

My heart is aching right now after hearing about Uncle Steve's condition. I've always felt like Uncle Steve was a big man, with an even bigger heart, and a contagious smile. I send all my love to him and to your family. You are constantly in our thoughts and prayers.

With love,

Tara (Richards) Limburg
